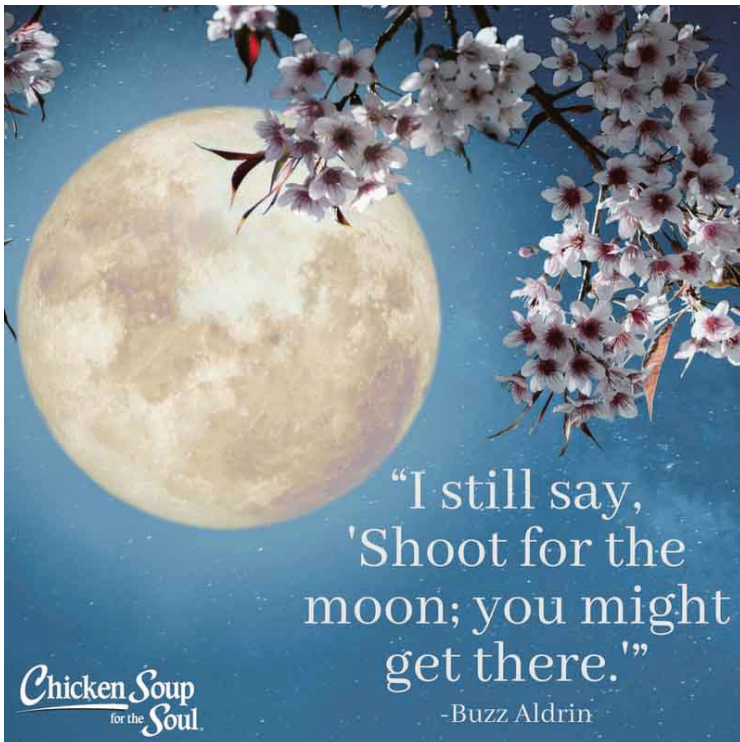


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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A Hard Pill to Swallow

I know it's human nature to try to find the easiest way of doing something and to look for ways to avoid unnecessary work. Unfortunately, our modern tools of convenience and entertainment have led us to the couch where we watch others move their muscles instead of moving our own. Why then is it a surprise that we feel so tired, weak, sad, and listless as we just sit there? What makes it worse is that while we're watching, somebody advertises a pill that falsely promises to provide all the same good health benefits that come from the exercise we are lacking. Is it a surprise that we believe it?



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

A friend told me about his brother who actually said, "I don't have to exercise or watch what I eat anymore since I'm taking a statin (lipid-lowering drug)." Indeed, many medicines, herbs, and vitamins inappropriately promise that sort of thing.

In fact, there are many people who will sell you medicine which promises to prevent strokes, heart attacks, hardening of the arteries, and aging. Many of these pills have some theoretical basis for that promise. Take for example vitamin E, which had a large group of scientists thinking it could prevent premature aging. In a long-term study, however, vitamin E simply didn't make any significant difference in reducing heart attack, stroke, or death.

Another example of a false promise is chelation. A very specific treatment for heavy metal poisoning, chelation has recently become popular in alternative medicine practices as a treatment for heart disease, theoretically decalcifying the arteries to prevent heart disease and strokes. One would like it to work, but under scientific scrutiny, it simply removes necessary calcium from your bones and doesn't significantly reduce vascular calcium deposits. Those who advertise chelation will tell you differently, but (as you know, dear reader) words that are meant to sell a product are different than words meant to explain a scientifically proven fact.

Bottom line: There is no magical pill or potion for the condition of inactivity. Watching others run down the football field won't improve your vascular health or give you the energy, strength, and positive attitude that comes with a walk or a work out. Walk a mile (12 blocks) a day and see what happens. Exercise is powerful medicine; you just have to do it.

Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc® most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central on SDPTV and follow the Prairie Doc® on Facebook and YouTube for free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library.



Westby's 30th Anniversary
Ron and Lori Westby will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on Monday, July 16th, 2018. Greetings may be sent to 1103 N 2nd St Groton, SD 57445. No gifts please.

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Work continues on the facelift of the Groton Dairy Queen. Below, Jim of All Trades (Jim Lane) and his son, Marshall Lane, are working on one of the chimney store fronts.



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The cloud was responsible for a 47 mph wind gust at 7:12 a.m. on Tuesday, July 10. The area received over 2 inches of rain during the past week. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Mayor Scott Hanlon goes through the packet with new Councilman Shirley Wells prior to the city council meeting Monday evening. Wells replaces Eddy Opp in Ward 2 and will serve until next year. She will be sworn in at the next council meeting on July 23. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for **full time and part time CNA's**. 12 hr. shifts - days and nights (SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)

DIETARY OPENINGS

Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts (WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

For more information,
Call 605/492-3615



Avoid Heat Related Illness

**STAY
HYDRATED!**

*During extreme heat, drink
plenty of water, even if you don't
feel thirsty.*



weather.gov/heat



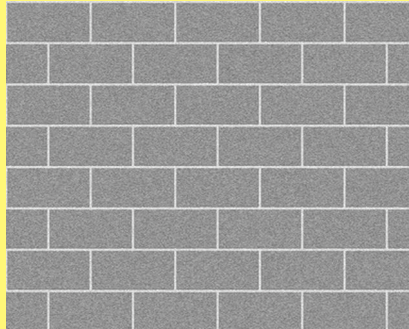
Published on: 07/10/2018 at 3:44PM

Remember to drink plenty of water during times of extreme heat!

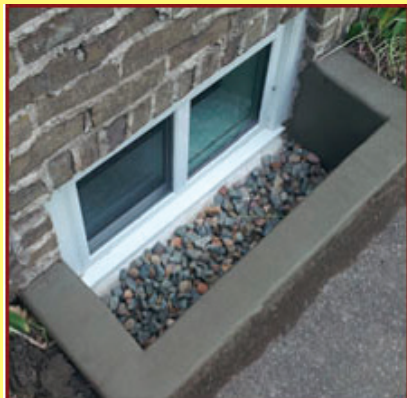
MIDWEST MASONRY & CONCRETE PUMPING



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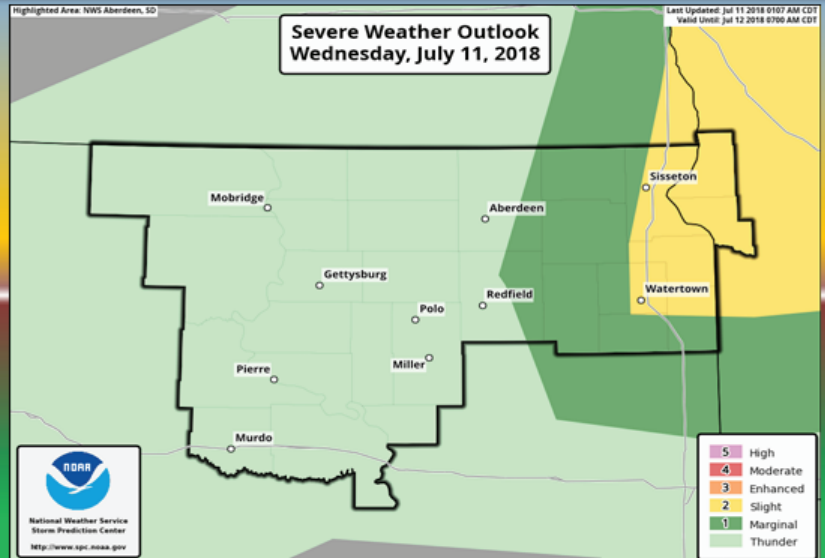
GARAGE FLOORS

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Severe Storms Possible This Evening

The main threats being strong winds and hail this evening and overnight, especially across northeast South Dakota & west central Minnesota.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 7/11/2018 2:47 AM Central

Published on: 07/11/2018 at 2:50AM

A few severe storms are possible toward evening. Hail and wind are the main threats.

**T
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BELIEVE IN**

**J
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"Believe in the Journey"

**Ladies Luncheon & Program
Wednesday, July 18 at Noon
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol
Silent Auction at 11:00 AM - Door Prizes
Dee Dee Raap - speaker
Advance tickets please: \$10
Call Kay Espeland 492-3507 or
Alice Jean Peterson 492-3351**

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Today in Weather History

July 11, 1909: A deadly, estimated F2 tornado moved ESE across the Simpson Park section of Big Stone City in South Dakota. A bus was thrown from the road, and the driver was killed. Two homes and several barns were destroyed. As the tornado crossed the foot of Big Stone Lake, it tore apart a railroad yard and killed four of the 26 Armenian laborers who were living in box cars at Ortonville, Minnesota. Nineteen were injured.

July 11, 1981: Severe thunderstorms moved eastward across the entire length of the South Dakota along the northern portion of the state. Hail, with the largest up to nine inches in circumference, resulted in 100 percent crop loss, damage to numerous buildings and loss of livestock. Trees were stripped, and large limbs were broken. High winds also accompanied these storms. Storms lasted into the early morning hours on the 12. Thunderhawk in Corson County had estimated winds of 70 to 75 mph that destroyed a machine shop and seven metal grain storage bins. In and around Pollock, a silo was moved three feet off the foundation. Power and telephones lines were down. Rainfall measured 2.28 inches in two hours in Pollock.

1936: From July 5-17, temperatures exceeding 111 degrees in Manitoba and Ontario claimed 1,180 lives (mostly the elderly and infants) during the longest, deadliest heat wave on record. Four hundred of these deaths were caused by people who drowned seeking refuge from the heat. In fact, the heat was so intense that steel rail lines and bridge girders twisted, sidewalks buckled, crops wilted and fruit baked on trees. Some record temperatures include; 112 degrees at St. Albans and Emerson, Manitoba, 111 at Brandon, Manitoba, 108 at Atikokan, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1990: The costliest hailstorm in U.S. history occurred along the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies. (Denver, Colorado): Softball-sized hail destroyed roofs and cars, causing more than \$600 million in total damage.

1888 - Heavy snow reached almost to the base of Mt. Washington, NH, and the peaks of the Green Mountains were whitened. (David Ludlum)

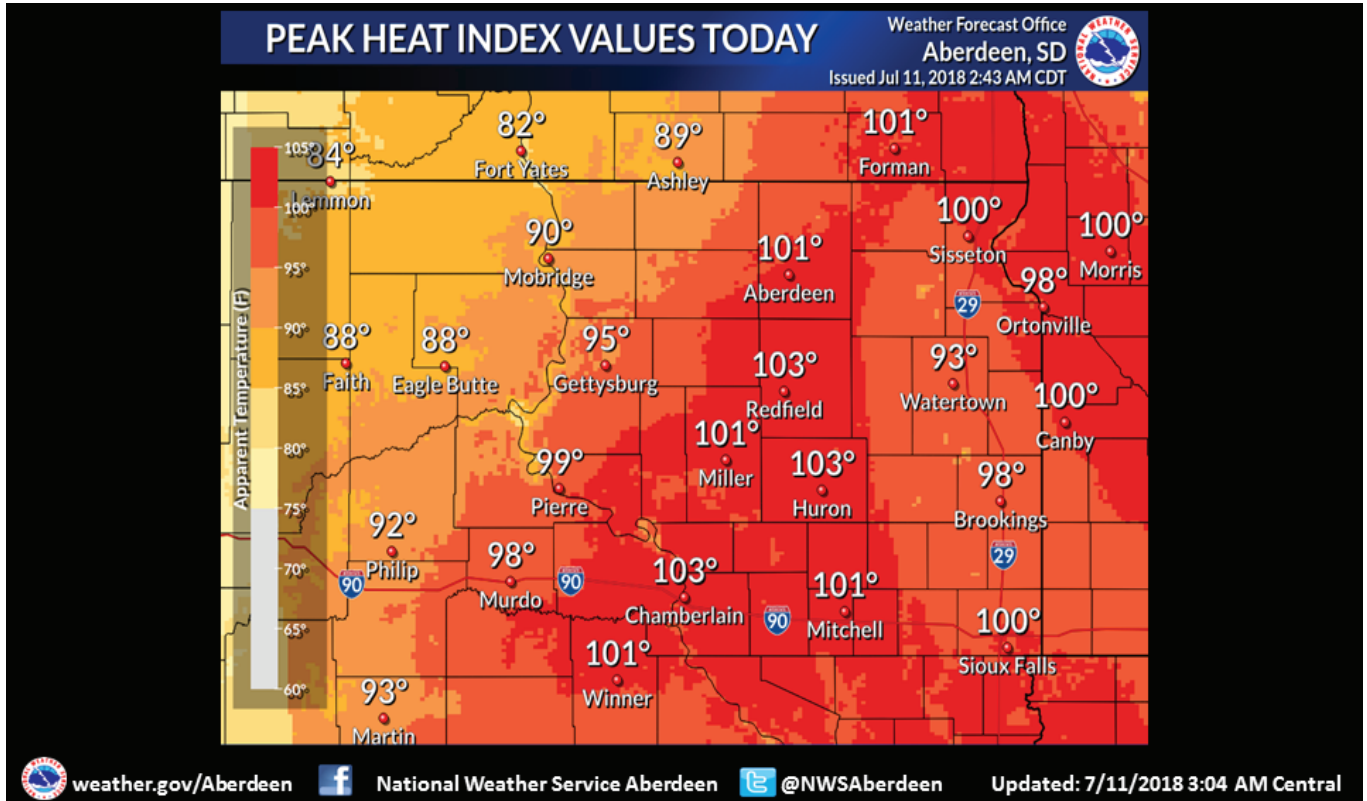
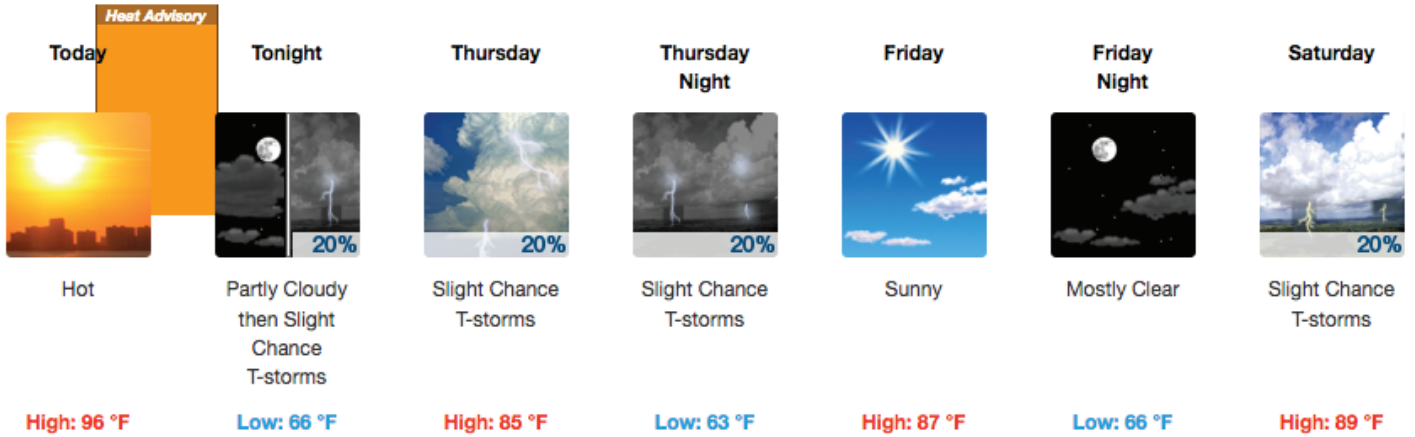
1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Parkston, SD, and wind gusts to 87 mph at Buffalo, MN. Later in the day strong thunderstorm winds at Howard WI collapsed a circus tent injuring 44 persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southern Texas, with totals ranging up to 13 inches near Medina. Two men drowned when their pick-up truck was swept into the Guadalupe River, west of the town of Hunt. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Baltimore, MD, reported a record high reading of 102 degrees for the second day in a row. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Dakota to Indiana. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced tennis ball size hail at Carson. Thunderstorms in Indiana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Fort Wayne. Five cities in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lakeland, FL, with a reading of 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Published on: 07/11/2018 at 3:12AM

High heat and humidity is expected again today, ahead of a cold front that will provide the support for storms tonight and Thursday morning. This front will bring temperatures much closer to average with lower humidity for Thursday as well.

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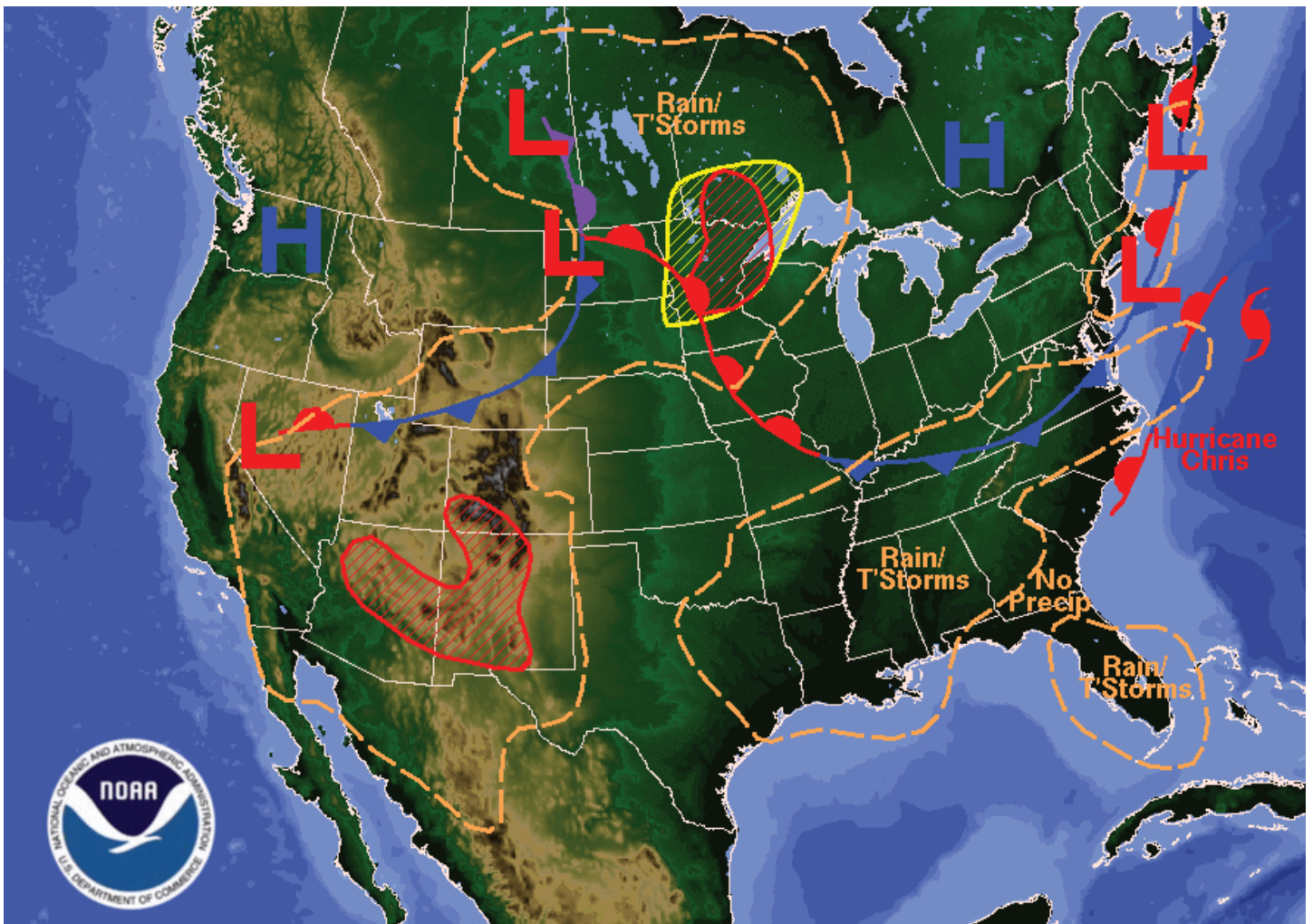
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 89.6 F at 4:49 PM
Heat Index: 101 at 5:34 PM
Low Outside Temp: 62.9 F at 7:48 AM
High Gust: 47.0 Mph at 7:12 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 110° in 1930
Record Low: 45° in 1941
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 0.96
Precip to date in July: 1.82
Average Precip to date: 11.81
Precip Year to Date: 7.64
Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:57 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jul 11, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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A GODLY HERITAGE

Nearly everyone has been exposed to the damage an ungodly heritage can be on someone's life. Often we hear horror stories of fathers who beat their children because those fathers were beaten by their fathers. Many times women whose mothers were beaten by abusive men marry men who abuse them. Children who learn their values in families where alcohol and other drugs are a regular part of daily activities grow up to think that abusing drugs is a way of life for most people. Each of us has been given the "gift" called "heritage" by our parents. For most of us, it has dramatically influenced how we think and act.

Some of us have been given the blessings of growing up in a Christian home. Some have not had this privilege and have struggled to break the cycle of sin and suffering. Our past, however, does not control our future.

Our Psalmist wrote, "Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart."

We often focus on our past experiences and compare what has happened to us by what has happened to others. Sometimes we find things in our heritage that we are happy about and thankful for. Other times we become angry or jealous because others have received more than we have. Then, we feel deprived, jealous and resentful.

But our Psalmist did neither. He focused on himself and the heritage God wanted him to have: a heart filled with joy! And the wonderful fact about His heritage is that we can pass it on to our children, our friends, anyone and everyone we meet. God's heritage is unlimited.

Prayer: We are grateful, Father, that our past does not determine our future. In You, all things can become new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:111 Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

01-17-28-56-70, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 3

(one, seventeen, twenty-eight, fifty-six, seventy; Mega Ball: fourteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$306 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Rescuers pull man to safety from Sioux Falls grain bin

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rescuers have pulled a man to safety after he became trapped in a Sioux Falls grain bin full of soybeans.

The man was cleaning out a bin with a grain vacuum shortly before 11 a.m. Tuesday. Lincoln County emergency manager Harold Timmerman says while the man was in the grain bin, he was "sucked down to the bottom of the bin."

The Harrisburg Fire Department responded to the bin, where the man was trapped up to his chest. Timmerman says it took between 30 to 45 minutes to free the man using grain rescue tubes.

The man was not hurt. The Argus Leader reports fire departments from Canton, Split Rock and Sioux Falls also assisted in the rescue.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

SD Democrats to reconvene convention after GOP challenge

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Democrats must reconvene their state convention to fix problems with their nomination of statewide candidates after the state Republican Party submitted a challenge to election officials.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said in a Monday letter to the state Democratic Party that the certification of candidates nominated at its June convention had to be rejected because documentation wasn't submitted within the deadline in state law.

The Republican Party had sent a letter to Krebs demanding she refuse to recognize Democrats' certification of candidates. Delegates at the convention had chosen hopefuls for offices including attorney general and lieutenant governor.

The convention will reconvene Aug. 10. Democrats' spokesman Aaron Matson says it will involve reaffirming the earlier elections and submitting paperwork to the secretary of state.

He says it's "inconvenient" but will be quick.

South Dakota insurers may take hit after payment freeze

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some South Dakota insurers may lose millions as President Donald Trump's administration moves to freeze payments under an Affordable Care Act program that protects insurers with sicker patients.

Experts argue that the decision likely won't topple the state's insurance market, but could drive up pre-

miums next year, the Argus Leader reported.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Saturday a suspension of payments part of the so-called "risk adjustment" program that shuffles money from insurers with healthier customers to companies with sicker enrollees. It's the administration's latest action to disrupt the health care law that Trump has attempted to repeal.

The agency said the administration's decision stems from conflicting court ruling in lawsuits filed by some small insurers who question whether they're being treated fairly under the program.

Federal data shows suspending payments could cost Sanford Health Plan more than \$5 million, while other insurers in South Dakota could save funds.

Sanford Health President Kirk Zimmer said the move creates uncertainty, confusion and apprehension that could increase 2019 insurance rates. But he assured South Dakota customers that there's no reason to panic.

"These rates that we're looking at now are not going to be of catastrophic nature," Zimmer said.

South Dakota's insurance market can likely take the hit, unlike other states that may be facing more obstacles, said Debra Muller, CEO of Avera Health Plans.

"This is going to roil the market nationally," she said. "But it doesn't necessarily mean it will roil the market here in South Dakota."

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

North Dakota sues Dakota Access over farmland ownership

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's attorney general is suing the developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline over agricultural land the company owns in violation of a state law banning large corporations from owning farmland.

In a separate case, an American Indian activist accused of starting a riot on a portion of the land during protests against the pipeline last year wants to use the state's lawsuit in his defense.

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem on July 3 filed a civil complaint in state district court against Dakota Access LLC, a company formed by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners to build the \$3.8 billion pipeline to move North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. The pipeline began operating a year ago.

Dakota Access in September 2016 bought about 6,000 acres (2,400 hectares) from a ranch family in an area of southern North Dakota where thousands of pipeline opponents had gathered to protest. North Dakota law prohibits large corporations from owning and operating farms, to protect the state's family farming heritage, but Stenehjem reached a deal with the company under which he agreed not to immediately sue. He deemed the purchase temporarily necessary to provide a safer environment for pipeline workers.

The agreement with the company expired at the end of last year but was extended through June.

The company's "continued ownership of the land constitutes a continuing violation of state law," Stenehjem wrote in his complaint. He asked the court to fine the company \$25,000 and order it to sell the land within a year or face more fines.

ETP spokeswoman Lisa Dillinger on Tuesday said the company doesn't comment on legal matters. The company has about three weeks to file a formal response in court.

Meanwhile, American Indian activist Chase Iron Eyes is asking the court to consider the state's lawsuit as he fights charges of trespassing on the land and inciting a riot in February 2017. Nearly 75 people were arrested after erecting teepees on the land, which they believe rightfully belongs to Native Americans under old treaties.

Given that Dakota Access can't legally own the land under state law, the company "had no legal authority whatsoever to direct law enforcement authorities to forcibly remove" Iron Eyes and the others, defense attorney Alexander Reichert said in court documents.

Prosecutors did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Xcel to refund \$10.9M from tax cut to South Dakota customers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State regulators on Tuesday approved an agreement to refund roughly \$10.9 million to the thousands of Xcel Energy customers in South Dakota as a result of last year's federal tax cuts.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission voted for the settlement, which also bars increases in base electric rates for the company's South Dakota customers until at least 2021. Public Utilities Commission Chairwoman Kristie Fiegen said the tax cuts mean rate stability and a refund for consumers.

Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy has more than 93,000 customers in South Dakota. Xcel Energy-South Dakota president Chris Clark said in a statement that the company is pleased to deliver benefits from the tax overhaul to its South Dakota customers.

The company estimates the average refund for a residential consumer will be about \$56, but the number will depend on actual usage.

"The savings from the tax cut will also enable us to continue investing in important projects for the future — projects that result in better levels of service for customers and provide the benefits of a modern electric system at a lower price," Clark said.

A Public Utilities Commission spokeswoman said in an email it's anticipated that additional such proceedings will be held for other utilities that serve South Dakota.

South Dakota girl injured in 5-fatality crash can walk again

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A 12-year-old South Dakota girl severely injured in a crash last week that killed five people is expected to make a full recovery.

Tirany Luschen is able to walk again less than a week after the crash that killed her mother Tawna Lichy-Reineke, 40, stepfather Chad Reineke, 43, and younger sister Janicka Luschen, 10, the Argus Leader reported .

The Highway Patrol says Michael Worlie, 29, fled from a Yankton police officer early Wednesday and his car's headlights shut off before the vehicle crossed into the oncoming lanes of state Highway 50, hitting the car Lichy-Reineke was driving. Worlie and another Sioux Falls man riding in his vehicle died.

The crash's sole survivor, Tirany Luschen was airlifted to a hospital with life-threatening injuries that required multiple surgeries. Family friend Bonnie Gusso told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan that the girl's doctor had never seen such a crash in which the patient wasn't paralyzed. Gusso said it's a "true miracle."

"No one knows for sure how long it will be," Gusso said about the healing process. "It's a long road ahead of her, but she'll make a full recovery."

Gusso said services for the three family members killed are pending as Tirany recovers.

Gusso and family friend Jennifer Trenhaile have established a GoFundMe for Tirany and her family. Trenhaile said she's not surprised by the support it's received.

"Chad was a longtime employee of Kolberg-Pioneer. He worked there for something like 20 years. Tawna was in the counseling field and had touched the lives of many people," she said.

Gas leak prompts evacuation of store, motel in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — No one was hurt in a natural gas leak that prompted the evacuations of a store and a motel in Pierre.

Fire Chief Ian Paul tells KCCR radio that firefighters were first called to the Walgreens store on Monday evening, but they determined the leak wasn't coming from that business.

The source was found at the nearby Econo Lodge. Montana Dakota Utilities crews were called in to repair it.

The cause of the leak wasn't immediately determined.

Information from: KCCR-AM, <http://www.todayskccr.com/>

Rapid City businessman sentenced for bank fraud, tax evasion

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The manager of a defunct Rapid City auto dealership has been sentenced to 9 1/2 years in federal prison for bank fraud and tax evasion.

Forty-four-year-old Brent Bednarz also was ordered Monday to repay a total of \$1.5 million to the IRS and his uncle.

Authorities say Bednarz embezzled from the Rapid Motors dealership started by his uncle, and also ran a kickback scheme with another local car dealer.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Bednarz pleaded guilty in a deal with prosecutors in which dozens of other charges were dismissed. He has previous convictions for theft, burglary and perjury.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Salter sworn into South Dakota Supreme Court

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The newest member of the South Dakota Supreme Court has taken the oath of office.

Mark Salter was sworn into the high court Monday afternoon in front of a packed Belbas Theater at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. Salter's colleagues tell the Argus Leader his years of experience, natural poise and attention to detail make him an ideal pick for the Supreme Court.

The 49-year-old Salter replaces Justice Glen Severson who retired in June after nine years serving the second district.

Salter has been a Second Circuit Court judge since 2013.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Soybean acres in South Dakota a record, but corn acres down

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers planted a record soybean crop this year, though corn acres are down in the state.

The Agriculture Department's recent acreage estimates put South Dakota soybean acres up 1 percent from 2017 to 5.7 million, and corn acres down 9 percent to 5.2 million.

Winter wheat acres are estimated at 830,000, also down 9 percent from a year ago.

Other South Dakota crops with estimated increases in acres are oil sunflowers, sorghum, oats, safflower, proso millet, flaxseed and alfalfa hay.

Other crops with estimated acreage decreases are confection sunflowers and dry peas.

Trump claims Germany 'totally controlled' by Russia

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — In a combative start to his NATO visit, President Donald Trump asserted Wednesday that a pipeline project has made Germany "totally controlled" by and "captive to Russia" and blasted allies' defense spending, opening what was expected to be a fraught summit with a list of grievances involving American allies.

Trump, in a testy exchange with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, took issue with the U.S. protecting Germany as it strikes deals with Russia.

"I have to say, I think it's very sad when Germany makes a massive oil and gas deal with Russia where we're supposed to be guarding against Russia," Trump said at breakfast with Stoltenberg. "We're sup-

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posed to protect you against Russia but they're paying billions of dollars to Russia and I think that's very inappropriate."

The president appeared to be referring to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that would bring gas from Russia to Germany's northeastern Baltic coast, bypassing Eastern European nations like Poland and Ukraine and doubling the amount of gas Russia can send directly to Germany. The vast undersea pipeline is opposed by the U.S. and some other EU members, who warn it could give Moscow greater leverage over Western Europe.

Trump said "Germany, as far as I'm concerned, is captive to Russia" and urged NATO to look into the issue. Stoltenberg pushed back, stressing that NATO members have been able to work together despite their differences. "I think that two world wars and the Cold War taught us that we are stronger together than apart," he told the president, trying to calm tensions.

Trump later tweeted a video of the exchange.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also pushed back as she arrived at NATO headquarters for the summit shortly before the president, insisting that Germany makes its own decisions.

"I've experienced myself a part of Germany controlled by the Soviet Union and I'm very happy today that we are united in freedom as the Federal Republic of Germany and can thus say that we can determine our own policies and make our own decisions and that's very good," she said.

The criticism was an unusual one coming from Trump, who has appeared eager to cozy up to Putin and who has dismissed the U.S. intelligence community's assessment that Russia tried to undermine Western democracy by meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election to help Trump win. During the campaign, Trump often resorted to the tactic of falsely accusing his opponents of things he had been criticized for doing.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced hours after the tit-for-tat over Germany that Trump would meet later Wednesday with Merkel, as well as with French President Emmanuel Macron. Journalists will not be allowed to cover either meeting, she said.

The dramatic exchange set the tone for what was already expected to be a tense day of meetings with leaders of the military alliance. Trump is expected to continue hammering jittery NATO allies about their military spending during the summit, which comes amid increasingly frayed relations between the "America first" president and the United States' closest traditional allies.

"The United States is paying far too much and other countries are not paying enough, especially some. So we're going to have a meeting on that," Trump said as he arrived at the breakfast, describing the situation as "disproportionate and not fair to the taxpayers of the United States and we're going to make it fair."

"They will spend more," he later predicted. "I have great confidence they'll be spending more."

Trump has been pushing NATO members to reach their agreed-to target of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic products on national defense by 2024 and has accused those who don't of freeloading off the U.S.

"Many countries in NATO, which we are expected to defend, are not only short of their current commitment of 2% (which is low), but are also delinquent for many years in payments that have not been made," he tweeted Tuesday en route to Europe, asking: "Will they reimburse the U.S.?"

That's not how the spending works. Two percent represents the amount each country aims to spend on its own defense, not some kind of direct payment to NATO or the U.S.

NATO estimates that 15 members, or just over half, will meet the benchmark by 2024 based on current trends.

During his campaign, Trump called NATO "obsolete" and suggested the U.S. might not come to the defense of members if they found themselves under attack — a shift that would represent a fundamental realignment of the modern world order. He also called Brussels a "hell hole" and "a mess." Trump has moderated his language somewhat since taking office, but has continued to dwell on the issue, even as many NATO members have agreed to up their spending.

Stoltenberg, for his part, credited Trump for spurring NATO nations to spend more on defense, noting

that the Europeans and Canada are projected to spend around \$266 billion more by 2024.

"We all agree that we have to do more," he said, describing last year as marking the biggest increase in defense spending across Europe and Canada in a generation.

Trump interjected, asking Stoltenberg why he thought that had happened.

"It's also because of your leadership, because your clear message," Stoltenberg responded.

Trump took credit for the spending, telling the NATO chief that "because of me they've raised about \$40 billion over the last year. So I think the secretary-general likes Trump. He may be the only one, but that's OK with me."

Trump, who arrived in Brussels late Tuesday, was set to participate in a welcome ceremony, a meeting of the North Atlantic Council and a working dinner with some of the same leaders he berated over trade during his last world leaders' summit in Canada last month.

Brussels is the first leg of a weeklong European tour that will include stops in London and Scotland, as well as a highly anticipated meeting next week with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Trump predicted as he departed Washington that the "easiest" leg of the journey would be the sit-down with Putin — a comment that did little to reassure allies fretting over his potential embrace of a Russian leader they regard as troublesome.

On the eve of the NATO summit, European Council President Donald Tusk pushed back against Trump's constant criticism of European allies and urged him to remember who his friends are when he meets with Putin in Helsinki.

"Dear America, appreciate your allies, after all you don't have all that many," he said.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas, Darlene Superville and Zeke Miller in Washington and Maria Danilova in Moscow contributed to this report.

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China vows retaliation for \$200 billion US tariff threat

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government vowed Wednesday to take "firm and forceful measures" against U.S. threats to expand tariff hikes to thousands of products like fish sticks, apples and French doors as their trade dispute escalates.

China gave no details but earlier threatened "comprehensive measures" if Washington took more action. That prompted fears Beijing, running out of imports for retaliation due to its lopsided trade balance with the U.S., might try to disrupt operations of American automakers, retailers and others that see China as a key market.

The spiraling conflict over Chinese technology policy threatens to chill global economic growth. It stems from Washington's complaint that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology and worries that plans for state-led development of Chinese champions in robots and other fields might erode American industrial leadership.

A possible second round of tariff hikes announced Tuesday by the U.S. Trade Representative targets a \$200 billion list of Chinese goods. That came four days after Washington added 25 percent duties on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods and Beijing responded by increasing taxes on the same amount of American imports.

The abrupt escalation is "totally unacceptable," said a Commerce Ministry statement. It said Beijing would take unspecified "necessary countermeasures" to protect its "core interests."

Asked what Beijing would do, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying gave no details but said, "We will take firm and forceful measures."

The USTR said it was responding to Beijing's decision to retaliate instead of changing its policies. President Donald Trump has threatened higher tariffs on more than \$500 billion of goods, or nearly all of China's

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annual exports to the United States.

The USTR will accept public comments and hold hearings Aug. 20-23 before reaching a decision after Aug. 31, according to a senior U.S. official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

The first U.S. tariff list focused on Chinese industrial products, an attempt to reduce the direct impact on American consumers.

The new list includes vacuum cleaners, furniture, auto and bicycle parts, French doors and plywood. It left untouched U.S.-branded smartphones and laptop computers.

That "will hit the Chinese export sector hard," said Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit in a report.

China's imports of U.S. goods are so small that Beijing "cannot match fresh U.S. tariffs," said Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank in a report.

China bought \$130 billion of U.S. goods last year. Both governments have raised tariffs on \$34 billion worth of each other's goods and already said they are considering additional charges on another \$16 billion. That would leave China only \$80 billion for further retaliation.

Instead, its heavily regulated economy gives Beijing tools to disrupt operations for American companies. Regulators can deny or cancel licenses or tie up companies by launching tax, environmental or anti-monopoly investigations.

Companies are watching U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc., which has waited for months for Chinese regulators to decide whether to allow its proposed \$44 billion acquisition of NXP Semiconductors. All other major governments have approved the deal.

The economic impact of the conflict already is spreading.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said this week its member companies are rearranging the global flow of their goods to make sure any bound for the United States don't pass through China.

Members of Congress are increasingly questioning Trump's tactics. They warned tariffs on imports raise consumer prices and expose U.S. farmers and manufacturers to retaliation.

"Tonight's announcement appears reckless and is not a targeted approach," said Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch in a statement.

Envoys from the two sides last met June 3 when Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross visited Beijing for talks with Vice Premier Liu He. They have given no indication when they might meet again.

Chinese leaders have tried without success to recruit support from Europe and other governments. They criticize Trump's tactics but share U.S. complaints about Beijing's industrial policies.

Investors had been taking the trade war in stride but Tuesday's announcement appeared to dent that optimism.

On Wednesday, China's main stock index lost 1.8 percent and Japan's market benchmark fell 1.1 percent. Hong Kong's main index shed 1.3 percent.

The conflict is "far from over," warned Hannah Anderson of JP Morgan Asset Management in a report, "and the impact will be global."

AP Economics Writer Paul Wiseman contributed from Washington.

Chinese Ministry of Commerce (in Chinese): www.mofcom.gov.cn

Hospital: Kids lost weight, drank dripping water in cave

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — The soccer teammates rescued from a flooded cave in Thailand lost weight during their 18-day ordeal and in the days before their discovery survived by drinking water dripping into their refuge, a health official said Wednesday.

The 12 boys and coach rescued over the three previous days "took care of themselves well in the cave," Thongchai Lertwilairatanapong, a public health inspector, said at a news conference at the hospital in Chiang Rai city where the group is recovering.

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The four boys rescued Sunday can eat normal food and walk around, and the four pulled out Monday were eating soft food. Thongchai said one member of the final group of four boys and the coach who arrived at the hospital Tuesday evening had a slight lung infection.

Two of the first group had a lung infection as well, and Thongchai said they would need medicine for seven days.

The average weight loss was 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) for those with known information, Thongchai said. They were able to obtain water dripping inside the cave.

"To not receive food, we can still survive for many months but what's necessary is water, which the cave has, and around this time there's a lot in the cave, and they chose clean water to drink," he said.

The group had entered the sprawling Tham Luang cave to go exploring after soccer practice on June 23, but monsoon rains soon filled the tight passageways, blocking their escape. They were found by a pair of British divers 10 days later, huddled on a small, dry shelf just above the water, smiling with relief but visibly skinny.

The complex, high-risk mission for international and Thai divers to guide the boys and coach through the cave's flooded and tight passageways had riveted people worldwide. Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai navy SEAL volunteering to work on the rescue efforts died Friday while replenishing oxygen canisters that were placed along the escape route.

Each of the boys, ages 11 to 16 and with no diving experience, was guided out by a pair of divers through rocky, muddy and water passages that in places were just a crawl space.

The method was extremely risky, but dwindling oxygen levels in the cave and fears of more monsoon rains to come made a decision urgent. Relatively mild weather and a massive effort to pump out water created a window of opportunity. And the confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission Sunday.

The boys were in isolation in the hospital to prevent infections by outsiders. But family members have seen at least some of the boys from behind a glass barrier, and after a period of time with no problems, the family members would be allowed closer while dressed in sterilized clothing.

Health officials have also previously said the boys would get a mental health evaluation, to address any problems caused by their ordeal. Outside experts have said the group identity of the soccer teammates and their youth would aid their ability to recover.

On Wednesday, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha thanked people involved in the rescue.

In a nationally televised address, Prayuth said that the government's efforts, the assistance of people in Thailand and abroad, and the outpouring of moral support made the mission a success. He also acknowledged the loss of a former navy SEAL, Saman Kunan, who died last week while replenishing air tanks inside the cave.

"His honor, sacrifice and legacy will forever be in our hearts," Prayuth said.

Border Protection says NYC mayor crossed border illegally

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and his security detail violated both Mexican and U.S. immigration laws by crossing the border on foot during a visit near El Paso, Texas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection alleges in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The mayor's office flatly denied the allegation.

De Blasio, a fierce critic of the Trump administration's immigration policies, went to the Texas border with about 20 other mayors from around the country on June 21, the day after President Donald Trump signed an order stopping family separations at the border.

More than 2,300 families were separated as a result of the administration's zero-tolerance policy, which criminally prosecutes anyone caught crossing illegally. The mayors said Trump had failed to address a humanitarian crisis of his own making.

De Blasio went to a holding facility for immigrant children but was denied entry. He then went to Mexico

and crossed into the U.S. to get a view of the facility. The New York Police Department runs de Blasio's security detail.

According to the letter, a uniformed Border Patrol agent noticed a group on the Rio Grande River flood plain south of the Tornillo, Texas, Port of Entry, taking photos of the holding facility. The agent asked if anyone from Border Patrol or public affairs was there to authorize their presence. A New York Police Department inspector said no, according to the letter, and when the agent asked the group how they arrived, they pointed to Mexico.

The agent told them they'd crossed the border illegally and asked them to remain there while he got a supervisor and took them to an official crossing for an inspection per federal law, according to the letter. But the group disregarded the order and drove back to Mexico, according to the letter.

De Blasio spokesman Eric Phillips said the group did nothing illegal and had approval to be there.

"The mayor crossed the border with the direct approval and under the supervision of the border patrol supervisor at this port of entry," Phillips said in an email Tuesday night to the AP. "Any suggestion otherwise is a flat-out lie and an obvious attempt by someone to attack the Mayor because of his advocacy for families being ripped apart at the border by the Trump Administration."

A spokesman for the Border Protection had no comment.

The letter was sent June 25 by Aaron Hull, the chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol's El Paso Sector to New York Police Department Commissioner James O'Neill.

Government falls short of deadline to reunite kids, parents

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT** and **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER**, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Some immigrant toddlers are back in the arms of their parents, but others remained in holding facilities away from relatives as federal officials fell short of meeting a court-ordered deadline to reunite dozens of youngsters forcibly separated from their families at the border.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Ever Reyes Mejia walked out of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement center Tuesday, carrying his beaming son and the boy's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles backpack. The boy was secured in a booster seat, and father and son were driven away.

Another boy and a girl who had been in temporary foster care were reunited with their Honduran fathers at the center about three months after they were split up.

The three fathers were "just holding them and hugging them and telling them that everything was fine and that they were never going to be separated again," said immigration lawyer Abril Valdes. The children were "absolutely thrilled to be with their parents again."

Late last month, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego set a 14-day deadline to reunite children under 5 with their parents and a 30-day deadline for older children.

It wasn't immediately clear how many children left detention facilities Tuesday or how many remain.

In trying to meet the first deadline, the government began with a list of 102 children potentially eligible to be reunited and whittled that to 75 through screening that included DNA testing done by swabbing the inside of the cheek.

Of those 75, Justice Department attorneys told the court the government would guarantee 38 would be back with their parents by the end of Tuesday. They said an additional 17 could also join their parents if DNA results arrived and a criminal background check on a parent was completed by day's end.

Government attorneys, meanwhile, told a federal judge that the Trump administration would not meet the deadline for 20 other children under 5 because it needed more time to track down parents who have already been deported or released into the U.S.

Sabraw showed little appetite for giving more time to the government unless it could show good reasons in specific cases.

"These are firm deadlines. They're not aspirational goals," the judge said Tuesday.

Asked about the missed deadline, the president said: "Well, I have a solution. Tell people not to come

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to our country illegally. That's the solution."

The government defended its screening, saying it discovered parents with serious criminal histories, five adults whose DNA tests showed they were not parents of the children they claimed to have, and one case of credible child abuse.

"Our process may not be as quick as some would like, but there is no question it is protecting children," said Chris Meekins, a Health and Human Services Department official helping to direct the process.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt, whose organization filed the lawsuit that forced the administration's hand, said he was "both thrilled and disappointed" with the government's work on the deadline.

"Things have taken a real step forward," Gelernt said.

At a bus station in Phoenix on Tuesday night, a 22-year-old woman who only gave her first name, Gisela, for safety concerns, said she had been apart from her 4-year-old son for over a month after presenting herself at a port of entry in Texas to seek asylum.

Gisela, a Mexican citizen, said she only spoke to her son once while she was detained in Texas and he was at a shelter for children in Phoenix.

Immigration authorities brought Gisela to Arizona about three days ago and the two were reunited Tuesday.

"He was happy. I was happy," she said.

In El Paso, Texas, three fathers from Central America were reunited with children under 5 and released Tuesday night to an independent shelter for immigrants and asylum seekers.

The administration faces a second, bigger deadline — July 26 — to reunite perhaps 2,000 or so older children with their families. Many are being held in facilities thousands of miles apart.

A Guatemalan man said his 6-year-old son feared he was dead after U.S. authorities separated the pair in May in El Paso, Texas. Hermelindo Che Coc, 31, said the boy cried on the phone with him from the shelter and asked whether he still loved him.

"I'm asking God for him to be in my arms as soon as possible," Che Coc, told reporters through tears Tuesday before attending a required check-in with immigration authorities in Los Angeles, where he was told to get a passport and return in October. "Without him, I can't be happy."

In ordering an end to the separation of families, the president said they should instead be detained together. But the government does not have the room: ICE has three family detention centers with space for 3,000 people, and they are already at or near capacity, though the Trump administration is trying to line up space at military bases.

On Monday, a federal judge in Los Angeles emphatically rejected the Trump administration's efforts to detain immigrant families for an extended period. A longtime court settlement says children who cross the border illegally cannot be detained for more than 20 days.

Householder reported from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington; Robin McDowell in Minneapolis; Julie Watson in San Diego; Michael Tarm in Chicago; Brian Melley in Los Angeles; Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, Calif.; Nomaan Merchant in Houston; and Corey Williams in Detroit contributed to this report.

Kavanaugh's views of presidential power drawing questions

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's past writings that a president should not be distracted by lawsuits and investigations could become a flashpoint in what's already shaping up to be a contentious confirmation battle.

With special counsel Robert Mueller investigating whether President Donald Trump obstructed justice, questions about whether a chief executive can be subpoenaed or indicted could potentially reach the Supreme Court. Though there's no indication at this point that will happen, it's sure to be a major topic of questioning at Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing as the Senate weighs whether to confirm him to replace

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retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Democrats opposing Kavanaugh are already weighing in, saying the past writings — particularly a legal article he wrote on the separation of powers in 2009 — suggest he would be inclined to side with Trump.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday that he “seems exactly like the kind of man President Trump would want on the Supreme Court if legal issues from the Mueller probe arise.”

A look at Kavanaugh’s past statements on presidential powers:

INVESTIGATIONS AND LAWSUITS INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT

Kavanaugh was a key player in the investigation that led to President Bill Clinton’s impeachment, but a decade later he wrote that the experience, coupled with his time working for President George W. Bush, had persuaded him that presidents should not have to face criminal investigations, including indictments, or civil lawsuits while they are in office. He said Congress should pass a law temporarily protecting presidents from such distractions in office.

Clinton, for example, “could have focused on Osama bin Laden without being distracted by the Paula Jones sexual harassment case and its criminal investigation offshoots,” Kavanaugh wrote in the 2009 Minnesota Law Review article.

If applied on the court somehow, those opinions could have a direct impact on Trump, who has also been dogged by allegations of sexual harassment.

In the Russia probe, it’s theoretically possible the court could have to weigh in on the question of whether a president is immune from criminal prosecution. The Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel, which provides guidance to executive branch agencies, has said sitting presidents cannot be prosecuted while in office.

SUBPOENAING THE PRESIDENT

In addition to indictment, another issue tied to the Mueller investigation that has not been fully resolved in the courts is whether a sitting president must respond to a subpoena from investigators.

In the 2009 article, Kavanaugh wrote that Congress should also exempt the president from questioning by criminal prosecutors or defense counsel.

“Even the lesser burdens of a criminal investigation — including preparing for questioning by criminal investigators — are time-consuming and distracting,” he wrote, adding that a president concerned about an ongoing criminal investigation “is almost inevitably going to do a worse job as president.”

Mueller hasn’t indicated that he will move to subpoena the president, though his team raised the prospect with Trump’s legal team in March and may do so if the president’s lawyers refuse to make Trump available for an interview.

Clinton was subpoenaed in 1998 during the independent counsel’s Whitewater investigation, though the subpoena was later withdrawn when Clinton agreed to voluntarily testify before the grand jury.

The Supreme Court has never definitively ruled on the question of whether a president can be forced to testify, though the justices in 1974 did rule that President Richard Nixon had to produce recordings and documents that had been subpoenaed.

FIRING THE SPECIAL COUNSEL

Trump has repeatedly criticized Mueller and the investigation on Twitter, raising concerns in Congress that he will move to fire the special counsel. The White House has asserted that Trump has the authority to fire Mueller, but only Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has the power to fire him under current regulations. Rosenstein appointed Mueller in May 2017 after Trump fired FBI Director James Comey.

In a 1998 article in the Georgetown Law Journal, Kavanaugh wrote that Congress should give the president the ability to fire special counsels, an opinion that Democrats have highlighted in the hours since he was nominated Monday evening.

Kavanaugh’s reasoning, however, was not to protect presidents but to make them more accountable. He wrote that presidents can complain that independent counsels are politically motivated while implying they are powerless to do anything about it. Giving the president firing power would “force the president and his surrogates to put up or shut up.”

Noting Nixon's resignation after firing Justice Department officials, Kavanaugh wrote that "history clearly demonstrates that the president will pay an enormous political price if he does not have a persuasive justification for dismissing a special counsel."

PLAYING POLITICS

Harvard Law professor Noah Feldman, who specializes in constitutional studies, on Tuesday warned Democrats not to overstate or misinterpret Kavanaugh's words. He argues that because Kavanaugh is suggesting Congress make new laws to exempt presidents from investigations or lawsuits, it's not the same thing as saying the courts should step in. Feldman suggests that Kavanaugh could even be implying that a president can be indicted, since he believes there should be a law preventing it.

"It's a mistake for Democrats to make this their main line of criticism," Feldman said.

Democrats showed little sign of heeding that advice Tuesday.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., said the Senate shouldn't consider Kavanaugh's nomination until the Mueller probe is finished.

"The president of the United States should not be beyond criminal investigations," Booker said.

But South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the Senate's No. 3 Republican, chalked the opposition up to "Democrat paranoia."

"It's part of their obsession with Russia, and the president," Thune said, noting that Kavanaugh wrote the article proposing presidential exemptions from lawsuits and investigations when President Barack Obama was in office.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Mark Sherman, Matthew Daly, Alan Fram and Rhonda Shafner contributed to this report.

Medical experts worry about testing DNA to reunite families

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's use of DNA testing to match migrant children separated from their parents is justifiable as a last resort, medical experts say, but raises a host of ethical problems.

That includes the risk of damaging the family fabric by revealing that an adult thought to be the biological parent really is not.

A federal judge in California on Tuesday said DNA testing should be limited to cases in which the parent-child relationship can't be established through documents such as birth certificates and passports.

The government had argued that DNA testing is faster than authenticating documents, and protects children — especially the youngest — from being handed to someone who may not be their biological parent.

Officials said testing on 102 migrant children under 5 years old revealed five cases in which adults claiming to be the parent actually were not, including two in which the results came as a surprise to the adults.

Ethicists say that's just one situation where problems arise.

DNA testing "is one of the few tools to fix this miserable mess," said Arthur Caplan, head of the division of medical ethics at the New York University School of Medicine. "But it would be the height of irresponsibility to do it without competent counselors used to dealing with these kinds of genetic discoveries."

Thomas Murray, president emeritus of the Hastings Center, said "misattributed" fatherhood, and even motherhood, is more common than most people realize.

DNA testing is ideal for determining biological parenthood, but "a direct genetic tie is not the only — or even in all cases the best way — of determining who is genuinely in caring parental relationship with a child," Murray said. The Hastings Center is a bioethics research institute.

"This could actually hurt the child," Murray added.

Nothing could be further from the government's intent, said Chris Meekins, a senior Health and Human Services Department official helping to oversee the court-ordered reunification of more than 2,000 children separated from their parents at the border.

Not only is DNA testing fast, taking about a week, but Meekins said it also protects children from be-

ing returned to someone who may not be their parent, and could do them harm. Background checks on parents in immigration custody have turned up eight cases of people with serious criminal violations, and one credible allegation of child abuse, he said.

"HHS could have transferred every child out of their care to a parent currently in (immigration) custody if we did not take into account child safety," said Meekins.

"Our process may not be as quick as some would like, but there is no question it is protecting children," Meekins added.

But U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego said Tuesday the practice should be curtailed.

The judge said DNA testing needed to be done only when parent-child relationships can't be proven through birth certificates or other ways, casting aside the government's position that all parents and children should be tested.

Sabraw, who ordered the reunification of families, said the government can use DNA testing but solely when necessary and with parental consent. Samples should be destroyed in seven days and not used for any other purpose.

Ethicists say the government's DNA testing also raises questions of privacy, informed consent and whether counseling is provided to families when the tests reveal unexpected results.

"Non-paternity problems can play out in all kinds of ways," said Caplan. Kids "may say, 'You're not my dad, but I want to find out who is my dad.'"

ACLU lawyer Lee Gelernt said DNA testing in every case simply is not needed. What about adoptive parents, he asked?

"The DNA is not conclusive," he said.

Seattle lawyer Janet Gwilym, who has long worked with refugees, said it's not that unusual to find an adult caring for a child who is not theirs.

"In the chaos of war or unpredictable situations, other people will take a child in and raise them as their own," said Gwilym, with Kids in Need of Defense.

She recalled a married couple from Ethiopia, whom she'd represented years ago. They took in and raised an infant, but when they became refugees they could not prove legal parentage, so the family was separated. Among the complications: The building where they'd tried to register legal papers burned down.

Gwilym said it took about a year of legal work to reunite that family.

Spagat reported from San Diego.

Heroes or criminals? Trump pardons 2 Oregon ranchers

By **ANDREW SELSKY, Associated Press**

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Rugged individualists to some, dangerous arsonists to others, a father and son who were convicted of intentionally setting fires on public land in Oregon were pardoned Tuesday by President Donald Trump.

The pardon is raising concerns that it will encourage others to actively oppose federal control of public land, which is a sensitive issue in the U.S. West where the federal government owns almost 50 percent of the land.

Six years ago, Dwight Hammond and his son Steven, part of a family of ranchers in the high desert of eastern Oregon, were convicted of arson. Their stiff prison sentences led armed protesters to seize a national wildlife refuge in 2016 in Oregon near the Hammond ranch.

Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, a well-known figure in the battle over public land and whose sons led the refuge takeover, welcomed the pardons, saying the Hammonds were victims of federal overreach.

"Now we've finally got a president of the United States who is paying attention to what is going on," Bundy said.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, president of the group Defenders of Wildlife, countered that the Hammonds were convicted of arson, a serious crime.

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"Whatever prompted President Trump to pardon them, we hope that it is not seen as an encouragement to those who might use violence to seize federal property and threaten federal employees in the West," Clark said.

While the Hammonds were regarded by land-rights activists as heroes, and victims of the federal government, federal prosecutors painted sinister portraits of them at their trial.

Witnesses testified that a 2001 arson fire occurred shortly after Steven Hammond and his hunting party illegally slaughtered deer on federal Bureau of Land Management property.

One said Steven Hammond handed out matches with instructions to "light up the whole country," and another testified that Hammond barely escaped the roaring flames.

The fire burned 139 acres (56 hectares) of public land and destroyed all evidence of the game violations, the U.S. attorney's office said.

The jury also convicted Steven Hammond for a 2006 blaze that prosecutors said began when he started several back fires, violating a burn ban, to save his winter feed after lightning started numerous fires nearby.

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 called for mandatory five-year sentences for the convictions. But U.S. District Judge Michael R. Hogan said such a lengthy sentence "would not meet any idea I have of justice, proportionality ... it would be a sentence which would shock the conscience to me."

Hogan instead sentenced Dwight Hammond to three months in prison and Steven Hammond to a year and one day. However, in October 2015, a federal appeals court ordered them to be resentenced to the mandatory prison time.

The new sentences became a cause celebre for those who oppose federal control of public lands, leading to the armed occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon for 41 days in 2016.

One occupier was shot dead by Oregon State Police. They say he reached for a pistol at a roadblock.

The U.S. attorney for Oregon, Billy Williams, justified the mandatory sentences, saying they're "intended to be long enough to deter those like the Hammonds who disregard the law and place firefighters and others in jeopardy." Williams declined to comment on the pardons.

Dozens of armed people, many from out of state, who occupied the refuge near the Hammond ranch said the father and son were victims of federal overreach. They changed the name of the refuge to Harney County Resource Center, reflecting their belief that the federal government has only a limited right to own property within a state.

Ammon and Ryan Bundy, two sons of Cliven Bundy, and five other defendants were acquitted in 2016 by a federal jury in Portland on charges stemming from the takeover.

In a statement Tuesday, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders called the five-year sentences for the Hammonds "unjust."

"Justice is overdue for Dwight and Steven Hammond," she said.

"Our family is grateful to the president and all who worked to make this possible," the Hammond family said in a statement.

Lyle Hammond, another of Dwight Hammond's sons, said Tuesday that his father and brother have been released from a federal prison south of Los Angeles but he didn't know their whereabouts.

Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon said Trump's action is "a win for justice, and an acknowledgement of our unique way of life in the high desert, rural West."

Oregon Wild, which works to protect and restore Oregon wildlands, wildlife and waters, sees a darker impact from the pardon.

"From the Bundys to logging and oil companies, special interests are working with the Trump administration to dismantle America's public lands heritage, and this will be viewed as a victory in that effort," spokesman Arran Robertson said.

AP journalists Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller contributed to this report from Washington.

Follow Andrew Selsky on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/andrewselsky>

Video shows moment of Clooney crash, actor thrown in air

By **PAOLO SANTALUCIA** and **NICOLE WINFIELD**, Associated Press

OLBIA, Sardinia (AP) — Actor George Clooney slammed his motorbike into an oncoming car that turned suddenly into his lane Tuesday and was thrown several meters (yards) in the air on the Italian island of Sardinia, according to video of the crash.

"He is recovering at his home and will be fine," Clooney spokesman Stan Rosenfield told The Associated Press in an email.

Surveillance video of the crash, apparently taken by a fixed security video, was obtained late Tuesday by the newspaper Corriere della Sera. It shows a blue Mercedes veering into oncoming traffic apparently to turn into a residential compound near Olbia. The video shows what is reported as Clooney's scooter crashing into the car while another scooter alongside him manages to veer around it.

Clooney is thrown over the front of his bike and up in the air before landing on the asphalt, where the car driver and other witnesses come to help.

The John Paul II hospital in Olbia confirmed Clooney was treated there and released after a few hours. Local media representatives who gathered at the hospital said the Oscar-winning actor-director left in a van through a side exit.

The newspaper La Nuova Sardegna said the 57-year-old Clooney was heading to a film set when the accident happened at a curve in the road near the entrance to the Costa Corallina residential compound in the province of Olbia.

An oil stain and police paint remained on the road. Photographs taken by someone passing the scene showed the car's front right bumper damaged and Clooney's bike on its side.

Clooney reportedly was in Sardinia filming a television miniseries adapted from Joseph Heller's World War II novel "Catch-22."

He has been staying at a lush, gated rental villa in the high-end Puntaldia neighborhood on Sardinia's northeastern coast, which overlooks the Tyrrhenian Sea. Staff at the home declined to comment.

Clooney is a frequent visitor to Italy. He has a home on Lake Como and was married in Venice in 2014 to the British human rights attorney Amal Clooney.

Associated Press writer Paolo Santalucia reported this story in Olbia and AP writer Nicole Winfield reported from Rome.

Nobel widow allowed to leave China after long house arrest

By **GERRY SHIH** and **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER**, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — In the fall of 2010, Liu Xia traveled to a prison in northeast China to tell her husband, dissident intellectual Liu Xiaobo, that he had just been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. That was the last time she left home as a free woman. Until now.

China allowed her to leave the country Tuesday, ending an eight-year house arrest that made the soft-spoken, chain-smoking 57-year-old poet with a shaven head a tragic icon known around the world.

As Liu Xia came off a plane in Helsinki, Finland, to transfer to a flight to Berlin, she spread her arms and grinned widely at a waiting photographer. A few hours later, she was seen getting into a car at Berlin's Tegel airport.

The release of Liu Xia, who was never charged with a crime, results from years of campaigning by Western governments and activists and comes just days before the one-year anniversary Friday of Liu Xiaobo's death. Liu's 11-year prison sentence and his wife's subsequent detention in her home had become glaring symbols of the authoritarian government's determination to prevent the couple from inspiring other Chinese.

"Sister has already left Beijing for Europe at noon to start her new life," wrote Liu Xia's brother, Liu Hui, on a social media site. "Thanks to everyone who has helped and cared for her these few years. I hope from now on her life is peaceful and happy."

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Liu Xia arrived in Germany while Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is on an official state visit to the country, which is among the ones that urged Beijing to free her.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel meets regularly with dissidents during visits to China and had raised Liu Xia's case with Chinese officials, including during a visit in May, people familiar with the matter said.

Liu's close friends Gao Yu, a veteran journalist in Beijing, and Wu Yangwei, better known by his pen name Ye Du, said Liu Xia left on a Finnair flight Tuesday morning. Wu said he spoke to Liu Xia's older brother, Liu Tong.

"Liu Xia has been kept isolated for so many years," Wu said by phone from the southern city of Guangzhou. "I hope that being in a free country will allow Liu Xia to heal her long-standing traumas and wounds."

A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said Liu left for Germany to seek "medical treatment on her own accord."

Liu Xia is an accomplished artist and poet who reluctantly followed her husband into politics two decades ago. In 2009, China sentenced Liu Xiaobo to 11 years in prison on a charge of inciting subversion after he helped write Charter 08, a manifesto calling for political and economic liberalization.

Liu was awarded the Nobel on Oct. 8, 2010. As soon as Liu Xia returned home from visiting her husband in prison that month, she was confined in her fifth-floor apartment in Beijing and denied access to a phone and the internet.

At first, she was optimistic her confinement would be brief, telling AP reporters at the time: "I believe they won't go on like this forever."

But the days turned into months, and then years.

Guards ate and slept outside her door, driving away well-wishers, activists, journalists and diplomats — a slow-burning ordeal worse than death, she said in a rare recording that emerged in May.

"If I can't leave, I'll die in my home," Liu Xia told her close friend Liao Yiwu, a writer who documented their phone conversation in an essay published in May.

Liu's friends said her psychological condition had steadily deteriorated, particularly since the death of her husband.

"Xiaobo is gone, and there's nothing in the world for me now," Liu tearfully told Liao. "It's easier to die than live. Using death to defy could not be any simpler for me."

Liu's release was rare good news for China's beleaguered community of activists, who have been the focus of an expansive crackdown on civil society, rights lawyers and other independent groups the administration of President Xi Jinping deems a threat to the ruling Communist Party's grip on power. The last time China let a high-profile political prisoner leave was in 2012, when blind activist Chen Guangcheng was allowed to fly to New York after escaping from house arrest and hiding for six days in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Authorities are still holding Liu Xia's brother, Liu Hui, who was convicted of fraud and imprisoned in a case supporters say was in retaliation against the attention given the Nobel laureate.

"This is fantastic news, something we have all been hoping against hope for a long time," said Hu Jia, a family friend and Beijing-based activist. "But we still fear for Liu Hui, who is being kept in the country as a guarantee so that Liu Xia does not speak out abroad."

The U.S. State Department said it welcomed the news that Chinese authorities "allowed her to leave China as she long wished," but said it remains concerned about her brother and hopes he can join her in Germany.

China had criticized calls by Western governments for Liu's release as interference in its domestic affairs and insisted that Liu Xia was free.

Last year, she appeared pale, gaunt and somber in images released by the authorities as she cared for Liu Xiaobo just before his death from liver cancer in a hospital under police custody. She was shown at his closely staged funeral dressed in black and wearing dark sunglasses as she clutched a photograph of her husband.

Liu Xiaobo was only the second Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in police custody, and human rights group say that shows the Communist Party's increasingly hard line. The first, Carl von Ossietzky, died of tuberculosis in Germany in 1938 while jailed for opposing Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

Frances Eve, a researcher for Chinese Human Rights Defenders, said Liu Xia's release was likely intended to mute criticism around the anniversary of Liu's death.

"I think the government wanted to try and save face, and make it seem as though it is a country ruled according to law when everything about her case has shown demonstrably that it is not," Eve said. "She has been an unwilling symbol of the brutality of China's treatment of human rights activists."

Shih reported from Beijing. Associated Press writers Christopher Bodeen and Yanan Wang in Beijing contributed to this report.

'Everyone is safe' after daring rescue of 13 in Thai cave

By **KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA** and **STEPHEN WRIGHT**, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — "Everyone is safe." With those three words posted on Facebook the daring rescue mission to extricate 12 boys and their soccer coach from the treacherous confines of a flooded cave in Thailand was complete — a grueling 18-day ordeal that claimed the life of an experienced diver and riveted people worldwide.

Thailand's Navy SEALs, who were central to the rescue effort, celebrated the feat with a post Tuesday evening that read: "All the thirteen Wild Boars are now out of the cave," — a reference to the boys' soccer team. "We are not sure if this is a miracle, a science, or what."

Eight of the boys were rescued by a team of Thai and international divers on Sunday and Monday. On Tuesday, the final four boys and their coach were guided out of the cave. Their rescue was followed a few hours later by the safe return of a medic and three SEAL divers who had stayed for days with the boys in their cramped, dry refuge.

Cheers erupted from the dozens of volunteers and journalists awaiting news of whether the intricate and high-risk rescue mission had succeeded. Helicopters transporting the boys roared overhead. People on the street cheered and clapped when ambulances ferrying them on the last leg of their journey from the cave arrived at a hospital in Chiang Rai city in far northern Thailand near the Myanmar border.

Their joy and relief was echoed around the globe by the multitude of people who had followed the long ordeal.

Payap Maiming, who helped provide food and necessities to rescue workers and journalists, noted that fact.

"I'm happy for Thais all over the country," he said. "And actually just everyone in the world because every news channel has presented this story and this is what we have been waiting for."

"It's really a miracle," Payap said. "It's hope and faith that has brought us this success."

Amporn Sriwichai, an aunt of rescued coach Ekkapol Chantawong, was ecstatic. "If I see him, I just want to hug him and tell him that I missed him very much," she said.

The plight of the boys and their coach captivated much of the world — from the heart-sinking news that they were missing, to the first flickering video of the huddle of anxious yet smiling boys when they were found by a pair of British divers 10 days later. The group had entered the sprawling Tham Luang cave to go exploring after soccer practice on June 23, but monsoon rains soon filled the tight passageways, blocking their escape.

Each of the boys, ages 11 to 16 and with no diving experience, was guided out by a pair of divers in the three-day high-stakes operation. The route, in some places just a crawl space, had oxygen canisters positioned at regular intervals to refresh each team's air supply.

Highlighting the dangers, a former Thai Navy SEAL died Friday while replenishing the canisters.

Cave-diving experts had warned diving the youngsters out was potentially too risky. But Thai officials, acutely aware the monsoon rains could trap the boys for months, seized a window of opportunity provided by relatively mild weather. A massive effort to pump out water made the winding passageways more navigable. And the confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission Sunday.

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"We did something nobody thought possible," Chiang Rai province acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn, leader of the rescue effort, said at a celebratory news conference.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, speaking Tuesday before the final rescue was completed, said the boys were given an anti-anxiety medication to help with their perilous removal from the cave.

Asked at a news conference in Bangkok if the boys had been sedated, Prayuth said: "Who would chloroform them? If they're chloroformed, how could they come out? It's called anxiolytic, something to make them not excited, not stressed."

Prayuth said the Tham Luang cave would be closed for some time to make it safe for visitors.

The first eight boys brought out were doing well and were in good spirits at the hospital. They received a treat on Tuesday: bread with chocolate spread that they had requested.

Jedsada Chokdumrongsuk, permanent secretary at the Public Health Ministry, said the boys rescued Sunday were able to eat normal food by Tuesday, though they couldn't yet take the spicy dishes favored by many Thais.

Two of the boys possibly have a lung infection but all eight are generally "healthy and smiling," he said.

"The kids are footballers, so they have high immune systems," Jedsada told a news conference. "Everyone is in high spirits and is happy to get out. But we will have a psychiatrist evaluate them."

It could be at least a week before they can be released from the hospital, he said.

For now the boys were in isolation to try to keep them safe from infections by outsiders. But family members have seen at least some of the boys from behind a glass barrier.

It was clear doctors were taking a cautious approach. Jedsada said they were uncertain what type of infections the boys could face "because we have never experienced this kind of issue from a deep cave."

If medical tests show no dangers after another two days, parents will be able to enter the isolation area dressed in sterilized clothing, staying 2 meters (yards) away from the boys, said another public health official, Tosthep Bunthong.

John Tangkitcharoenthawon, a local village chairman, was bursting with happiness over the successful rescue.

"If this place had a roof, the morale has gone straight through it," he said.

President Donald Trump joined those paying tribute to the rescuers.

"On behalf of the United States, congratulations to the Thai Navy SEALs and all on the successful rescue of the 12 boys and their coach from the treacherous cave in Thailand," he tweeted. "Such a beautiful moment — all freed, great job!"

One of soccer's most popular teams, Manchester United, expressed its relief over the rescue and invited the boys and their coach, as well as those who saved them, to come see the team play on their home ground this season.

A message posted on the English Premier League club's Twitter account said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected. We would love to welcome the team from Wild Boars Football Club and their rescuers to Old Trafford this coming season."

The international soccer federation, FIFA, had already invited the boys to attend the World Cup final in Russia this Sunday. However, doctors treating the boys said it was too soon for them to make the trip.

Officers describe faint whimper, finding abandoned infant

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A faint whimper in the darkness was all it took.

Missoula County Sheriff's Deputy Ross Jessop and U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Nick Scholz rushed toward the sound after hours spent searching the Montana woods for a missing infant.

Jessop was about to take another step when he heard a stick crack underfoot. He looked down to find a cold, wet, soiled 5-month-old boy face-down under a pile of debris.

"I abandoned any police training or any chance of saving evidence there — I didn't care," Jessop, a father of three, told reporters on Tuesday. "I scooped up the baby, made sure he was breathing. He had

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a sparkle in his eye. (I) warmed him up, gave him a couple of kisses and just held him.”

The baby, who had been abandoned for at least nine hours before Jessop and Scholz found him at 2:30 a.m. Sunday, was cold, hungry and had scrapes and bruises, but was otherwise in good condition. They wrapped him in a coat and carried the boy out of the woods to safety.

“It was the happiest 15-20 minutes of my career,” Scholz said of the walk out. “I was just stunned. Walking in to this situation, you were mentally prepared for the worst.”

The baby drank a whole bottle of Pedialyte in under a minute, then drank two more, said Missoula County Sheriff’s Capt. Bill Burt. The baby’s tiny, dirty hand grasped Burt’s finger with surprising strength, then he fell soundly asleep as hospital officials hooked him up to an IV, Burt said.

The rescue that Sheriff T.J. McDermott called a miracle was recounted moments before Francis Crowley, 32, appeared in court to hear charges against him that included assault on a minor and criminal endangerment.

Crowley told investigators he left the boy in the woods after crashing his car because the baby was heavy, according to court records. He appeared in Missoula County Justice Court from jail by video, and he broke down repeatedly as he heard the allegations against him.

Crowley doubled over, then fell to the floor and covered his face with his hands, sobbing. He exclaimed twice, “I love that f----- kid,” and implored the judge not to take him away.

Public defender Ted Fellman said Crowley had no money and was living near Lolo Hot Springs. Sheriff’s officials said Crowley, the child’s mother and the boy were living in a camp near the hot springs in Lolo National Forest.

Crowley is from Portland, Oregon, and was previously arrested in June in Missoula on a fugitive warrant from Oregon for a probation violation, Missoula County prosecutors said. He has a string of prior arrests that include burglary, assault, drug and criminal mischief charges, Deputy County Attorney Brittany Williams said.

The nature of Crowley’s relationship to the baby was not immediately clear.

Crowley did not enter a plea during the court hearing. Judge Marie Andersen set bail at \$200,000 and scheduled his next court date for July 25.

Deputies were called to Lolo Hot Springs at 8 p.m. Saturday because Crowley was creating a disturbance and threatening to fire a gun, Missoula County prosecutors said.

Crowley was disoriented, likely because of drug use, and unable to help officers find the baby or say how long ago the crash had occurred, charging documents said. He variously said the baby was lying on the side of the road or had died and was buried in the woods.

But Crowley described crashing along an abandoned road that Jessop recognized as one that he started searching a little while earlier until it got too rough. He called for a four-wheel drive vehicle and he and Scholz found the wreck beyond the road’s end. They followed a trail of items that included baby formula and a diaper bag before hearing the child.

The baby was taken via ambulance to the hospital. On the way, the baby coughed up small sticks, the charging document said. He was treated for dehydration, lack of food and scratches, cuts and bruises and was placed in the custody of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

For Jessop, who has three daughters, the rescue gave him encouragement in what he described as an emotionally draining job. In 2010, a coroner’s inquest cleared Jessop in the fatal shooting of a man who had tried to shoot the deputy during a late-night traffic stop.

“To experience this, to have God help me, let me experience something like this, just gives me an extra boost,” Jessop said. “You know what? Cops actually do matter sometimes. We actually do a good job. So it’s pretty encouraging for me.”

Vive la France: Les Bleus advance to World Cup final

By STEVE DOUGLAS, AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — They're young, they're brash and they're collectively worth a billion dollars. The one thing missing for this French squad is an international title.

Kylian Mbappe, Paul Pogba and France are about to get that chance.

Les Bleus are headed to the World Cup final.

Samuel Umtiti clinched a 1-0 win over Belgium — and earned the approval of watching French President Emmanuel Macron in the VIP seats at St. Petersburg Stadium — by scoring on a header off a corner kick in the 51st minute on Tuesday.

"Vive la France! Vive la Republique!" France forward Antoine Griezmann shouted during postgame celebrations.

Umtiti played his part in a strong defensive effort by the French, too, helping to shut out the highest-scoring team at the tournament and leaving Belgium's golden generation of Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku to regret another missed opportunity at a major tournament.

"It's me that scored," Umtiti said, "but we all delivered a big game."

France's players danced on the field after the final whistle and their fans sang in the stands long past the end of the match, surrounded by yellow-clad security.

They certainly hope to keep the party going on Sunday in the final in Moscow. France — with an average age of 26 — will face either Croatia or England, who play Wednesday at the Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital, and has a shot at redemption after losing its last two major finals — at the 2006 World Cup when Zinedine Zidane was sent off for a nasty head-butt and the 2016 European Championship on home soil.

"We're immensely privileged to be in the World Cup final," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "It was so painful two years ago we have to savor it."

Deschamps now has the chance to become the third person to win the World Cup as a player and a coach, after German great Franz Beckenbauer and Brazil's Mario Zagallo. As France captain, Deschamps raised soccer's most prized trophy in 1998.

Deschamps has faced some criticism for being too pragmatic and functional despite having a squad of superstars, but his team was set up superbly against an opponent that was largely restricted to only minor chances and denied on two occasions in particular by France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

He dived to his right midway through the first half to claw away Toby Alderweireld's shot, then got in front of Lukaku to punch away one of the many crosses sent in by Belgium in the final stages.

In a tournament dominated by goals from set pieces, France's goal came off a corner when Griezmann curled in the ball from the right and Umtiti got in front of tall Belgium midfielder Marouane Fellaini to knock in his header at the near post.

Up in the corporate seats, president Macron reacted to the goal by shaking the hand of King Philippe of Belgium as FIFA president Gianni Infantino watched on between them.

"Unfortunately for us, the difference is just a dead-ball situation, a set play," Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said. "The game was, as you can imagine, very close, very tight, and it was going to be decided (on) maybe the one that could find that final touch in the box."

After reaching the quarterfinals at both the 2014 World Cup and the European Championship in 2016, Belgium again missed the chance to get to an international final and has yet to fulfil its lofty expectations. Leading the scoring in this tournament with 14 goals, many thought this could be their year.

With Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar no longer in Russia, Hazard and Mbappe have taken over as the stars of the World Cup and there was a buzz every time either got the ball.

Yet while Hazard — Belgium's captain — faded after a strong opening 30 minutes, Mbappe was a constant threat. His first touch was after 10 seconds and, after receiving the ball on the right wing, he sped past Jan Vertonghen and then Mousa Dembele on a thrilling run.

At 19, Mbappe wasn't even born when France won the World Cup for the first and only time with a squad

that is just as diverse as the one Deschamps is leading 20 years later.

Umtiti was born in Cameroon. Mbappe has Algerian-Cameroonian roots.

"It's a pure pleasure to see these players grow," Deschamps said, "and never give up."

Instead of a trip to Moscow, Belgium will return to St. Petersburg on Saturday for the third-place match no team wants to play.

IN THE STANDS

Along with the French and Gabonese presidents and the king and queen of Belgium, there was rock 'n' roll royalty watching the game.

Mick Jagger was one of the many famous faces in the stands at St. Petersburg Stadium. The Rolling Stones frontman is a big soccer fan, having attended the World Cup final in Brazil in 2014 as well as many England games.

Former Baywatch actress Pamela Anderson, who is the partner of France defender Adil Rami, also was present.

More AP World Cup coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/WorldCup>

Steve Douglas is at www.twitter.com/sdouglas80

Trump sought 'the best' in hunt for Supreme Court nominee

By CATHERINE LUCEY, ZEKE MILLER and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In calls from the Oval Office, from Air Force One, and from his New Jersey golf club, President Donald Trump returned over and over to the same question as he mulled his next Supreme Court nomination: "Who's the best here?"

His final answer was hardly a surprise: Trump landed on the person who had long been his leading contender — DC-based federal appeals judge Brett Kavanaugh, an established Republican favorite. Still, the days leading up to the grand reveal on Monday night were filled with frenzied deliberations, last-minute lobbying efforts and an aggressive attempt to ensure secrecy, according to nine people with knowledge of the process who requested anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

With characteristic flair, Trump sought to keep the guessing game going about his choice, tweeting hours before the ceremony: "I have long heard that the most important decision a U.S. President can make is the selection of a Supreme Court Justice - Will be announced tonight at 9:00 P.M."

Trump began hunting for a new justice nearly two weeks earlier, when 81-year-old Justice Anthony Kennedy came to visit him in the White House to share his retirement plans. But the process really started more than two years ago when, as a candidate, Trump released a list of potential court picks vetted by conservative groups in a calculated bid to win over skeptical GOP primary voters.

It was that list Trump drew from when he selected Justice Neil Gorsuch last year, and he wanted to replicate that playbook.

From the list of 25, Trump narrowed the group to six and then, by the weekend, to four. The other finalists were federal judges Thomas Hardiman, Amy Coney Barrett and Raymond Kethledge. Barrett had become a conservative favorite after she was grilled about her Catholic faith by Democrats during her confirmation hearing last year. Hardiman, a runner-up for the Gorsuch seat, brought a more blue-collar pedigree and an outside-the-beltway perspective, and Kethledge was viewed as a safe confirmation prospect.

Trump interviewed all four and was quickly taken by Kavanaugh, according to a person familiar with the process, who said Trump met with Kavanaugh for about an hour and a half over more than one meeting. He came away impressed with the Yale-educated Kavanaugh's academic credentials, his extensive library of written opinions and the frequency with which other courts cited them.

Meeting with Republican lawmakers last week at the White House, Trump's mind seemed made up as he made the case for Kavanaugh, according to a Republican familiar with but not authorized to speak

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about the private meeting. Trump seemed convinced Kavanaugh could win confirmation and argued that a more conservative judge would have a hard time getting approval from Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine. As the group exited the room, Trump said in parting, "Kavanaugh's going to be great."

But if Trump was leaning toward Kavanaugh, he continued to deliberate on others. At the White House July 4th festivities, Trump continued to poll friends and allies about his court options, said a person familiar with the events. Trump reached out repeatedly to senators, including making a call to Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who had openly lobbied for the job. The White House pointedly declined to label that conversation an interview.

In addition to seeking input on who was the "best," Trump again and again asked, "What do you think are the issues?" with each candidate.

On Friday, Trump spoke to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell from his New Jersey golf club. The Kentucky lawmaker laid out the confirmation paths for his top options, noting that Kavanaugh's lengthy paper trail — both from his time as a judge and working in President George W. Bush's administration — could make for a more challenging process. But a person familiar with the talk stressed that McConnell did not advocate for any one option.

Over the weekend, Trump's interest in Hardiman appeared to perk up, as he started asking more questions about the judge who has served with his sister, Judge Maryanne Trump Barry. But by Saturday, Trump's mind was all but made up on Kavanaugh, said a Republican familiar with the deliberations, noting that Trump was referring to him as a conservative who could be confirmed and calling him a "classic."

Still, less than 48 hours from the announcement, seemingly set on Kavanaugh, Trump continued to poll friends and allies. It's not clear whether that was because he was truly still uncertain, wanted to maintain the suspense, or a combination of both. On Sunday, he had lunch at his golf club with Fox host Sean Hannity, Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy, and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, seeking their input. At that particular meal there was no consensus, with Hannity favoring Barrett, Ruddy backing Kavanaugh and Giuliani preferring Hardiman, said a person familiar with the process, but not authorized to speak about private conversations.

About nine hours later, it was a done deal. Trump called Kavanaugh with the news, said a senior White House official. He also notified Vice President Mike Pence and White House counsel Don McGahn.

On Monday, Trump phoned Kennedy to let him know his former law clerk would be nominated to fill his seat. McConnell also received a heads-up from the president, as did long-serving Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah. The president briefed Senate Republicans at the White House on Monday evening shortly before making the public announcement.

Seeking to keep the suspense alive, the White House had let few people in on the decision in advance. But there were a few tells.

A senior White House official said the West Wing was surprised the decision didn't leak out after U.S. marshals whisked Kavanaugh from the federal courthouse.

Monday evening, last-minute rumors began to circulate as Kavanaugh's former law clerks and Bush era co-workers trooped into the East Room for the announcement. But still, many of those in the room did not know.

Pleased by the process and the secrecy, Trump surveyed the room.

"I know the people in this room very well," Trump said. "They do not stand and give applause like that very often, so they have some respect."

Judge puts blame on Trump, Congress for immigration crisis

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Trump administration's failed attempt to detain migrant families together indefinitely ran into a formidable obstacle in a judge whose upbringing was shaped as the daughter of immigrants and who previously rejected requests to allow the government to lock up children with their

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parents.

Judge Dolly Gee, the first Chinese-American woman appointed to the U.S. District Court, has joked that her mother was her first pro bono client because she had to translate for her at medical appointments and help her apply for jobs as a seamstress when she was just a girl.

"She in many ways inspired my desire to go to law school," Gee said in a video produced by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. "I saw firsthand the difficulties she encountered as a non-English speaker and also as a garment worker. And I saw many of the abuses that take place in the workplace, and I decided at a fairly early age that I wanted to do some type of work that would address some of the inequities I saw as a child."

On Monday, Gee rejected the Trump administration's efforts to detain immigrant families in long-term facilities, calling it a "cynical attempt" to undo a longstanding court settlement.

The U.S. Justice Department said it disagreed with the ruling and was reviewing it further.

Gee, 59, worked for years as a labor lawyer and arbitrator before applying to be a judge in what she saw as a chance to diversify the court.

President Bill Clinton nominated her in 1999, but the GOP-controlled Senate dragged its feet and Gee never received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. President Barack Obama nominated her a decade later, and she was confirmed and took her seat in Los Angeles in 2010.

Although Gee has handled hundreds of cases, she is best known for a series of decisions on immigration in which she has often ruled against the government.

Overseeing a longstanding settlement between the government and immigration advocates over the detention of minors, Gee ruled in 2015 that immigrant children should not be held for long periods — generally no longer than 20 days — even with their parents. She said they should be released as quickly as possible, typically to a relative.

In sharply worded rulings in the case, Gee scolded the Obama administration for holding children in "widespread and deplorable conditions," and she dismissed a request to reconsider a decision at one point, noting the government had "reheated and repackaged" its arguments. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals largely upheld her ruling but said its agreement didn't require the release of parents with their children.

Last month, Attorney General Jeff Sessions asked Gee to modify her order so families that entered the country illegally could be held together indefinitely. The move followed the president's reversal of a policy that created an uproar when children were taken from their parents in emotional scenes caught on camera.

The government said in court papers that Gee's previous ruling made family detention unlikely and provided an incentive for immigrants to bring children with the expectation they wouldn't be locked up.

"One reason those families 'decide to make the dangerous journey to illegally enter the United States is that they expect to be released from custody,'" the government said, quoting an official with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Gee described the government's request as a "cynical attempt" to foist responsibility on her for the president's "ill-considered" action and Congress' failure to address the issue for over 20 years. She said it was "procedurally improper and wholly without merit."

Gee made a landmark ruling in another case in 2013 that gave mentally disabled immigrants the right to legal representation if they were detained and facing deportation. It was the first time a court required legal assistance for any group, including children, in immigration courts.

And during the early days of President Donald Trump's travel ban targeting Muslim-majority countries, Gee ordered the return of an Iranian man who was removed from the U.S. upon his arrival despite having a valid visa.

Jean Reisz, a law professor and co-director of the immigration law clinic at the University of Southern California, said what's unusual about Gee's rulings is that she's waded into the thorny topic of immigration, where the government has broad authority.

"Her strong language was kind of a welcome reprieve in a climate where discretion's largely left to the attorney general and not reviewed by the judiciary," Reisz said. "Most judges weren't taking those positions."

Attorney Michael Steinberg, a lead lawyer on the case involving immigrants with mental disabilities, said Gee was careful, thoughtful and respectful but made her point clear, even when it was subtle.

Before she became a judge, Gee was known for her work fighting for underdogs. She investigated workplace and racial discrimination and sexual harassment and worked on behalf of labor unions, though she also represented employers in some cases.

"She has used her position as a prominent attorney in Los Angeles to promote racial tolerance and fight for justice for those who face discrimination," former Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, said in a statement after the Senate confirmed Gee.

Gee said she was often underestimated early in her career because she looked much younger than she was and stood only 4-foot-11 (150 centimeters).

Her first assignment as a law firm associate sent her to a butcher's union hall where the president was a "huge guy" who towered over her.

"He said, 'So you're the lawyer?'" she recalled in the interview with the bar association, part of a series on prominent members. "I said, 'I sure as hell am.'"

Once they got down to business, she said his "perceptions melted away."

Follow AP's coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>.

Trump lands in Europe, says Putin 'easiest' of his meetings

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — With Europe's wary eyes upon him, President Donald Trump launched a weeklong trip there on Tuesday with harsh criticism for NATO allies and predicted the "easiest" leg of his journey would be his scheduled sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As he departed the White House for a four-nation European tour, Trump did little to reassure allies fretting over the risk of damage he could do to the 69-year-old trans-Atlantic mutual defense pact and his potential embrace of Putin during a summit in Helsinki.

Trump said Tuesday he "can't say right now" if Putin is a friend or foe, but called him a "competitor." The U.S. intelligence community has concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to boost Trump's candidacy, and warns of further attempts at interference both in the 2018 midterms and in European elections.

Trump arrived in Brussels on the eve of the NATO summit after repeated attacks on the pact. He told reporters in Washington before leaving that "Frankly it helps them a lot more than it helps us" and then later tweeted from Air Force One that he may demand reimbursements from the European member nations.

Trump has been pressing NATO countries to fulfill their goal of spending that 2 percent of their gross domestic products on defense by 2024. During his presidential campaign, he suggested he might only come to the defense of NATO nations that fulfilled their obligation. And a year ago, during his first visit to its Belgium headquarters, Trump initially declined to explicitly support the organization's defense agreement.

Trump, who landed in Belgium during the middle of the soccer-mad nation's World Cup semifinals match, will later head to London, where Prime Minister Theresa May's government is in turmoil over her plans for exiting the European Union.

European Council President Donald Tusk said on Tuesday in a message to Trump that "it is always worth knowing who is your strategic friend and who is your strategic problem." Tusk recalled that the Europeans are spending more than Russia and as much as China on defense. NATO estimates that 15 members, or just over half, will meet the benchmark by 2024 based on current trends.

"Getting ready to leave for Europe. First meeting — NATO. The U.S. is spending many times more than any other country in order to protect them," Trump tweeted Tuesday morning, adding: "Not fair to the U.S. taxpayer. On top of that we lose \$151 Billion on Trade with the European Union. Charge us big Tariffs (& Barriers)!"

On Monday he'd tweeted the situation was "not fair, nor is it acceptable," and insisted that NATO benefits Europe "far more than it does the U.S."

He added: "NATO countries must pay MORE, the United States must pay LESS. Very Unfair!"

Trump, who has compared the sentiment that underpinned the Brexit vote to leave the EU to his own election, will be making his maiden presidential trip to Britain at a fraught time for May. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit Secretary David Davis resigned within hours of each other in protest of her plan. Trump said might meet with Johnson in the UK despite his resignation.

Trump's visit is expected to attract large protests in London and elsewhere in Britain.

Trump's weeklong trip to Europe will continue with a stop in Scotland before ending with a sit-down in Helsinki with Putin.

He said that of the high-stakes meetings of his trip, "Putin may be the easiest of them all."

"I think that getting along with Russia, getting along with China, getting along with others is a good thing, not a bad thing," he added.

The meeting will be closely watched to see whether Trump will rebuke or embrace Putin, who has repeatedly denied the allegations of election meddling, in spite of evidence to the contrary.

Colvin reported from Washington. AP writer Zeke Miller contributed from Washington.

Follow Colvin and Lemire on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/JonLemire>

UK prime minister seeks to stem Cabinet exodus over Brexit

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May insisted Tuesday that her plan to retain close ties with the European Union "absolutely keeps faith" with voters' decision to leave the bloc, as she tried to restore government unity after the resignations of two top ministers over Brexit.

May has spent the past few days fighting for her political life as first Brexit Secretary David Davis and then Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson quit, saying May's plans for future relations with the European Union did not live up to their idea of Brexit. On Tuesday, two more lawmakers followed them out the door.

Johnson sent an incendiary resignation letter on Monday accusing May of killing "the Brexit dream" and flying "white flags" of surrender in negotiations with the European Union.

May, who has tried to keep calm and carry on, replaced Johnson with a loyalist, former Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt, and gave Davis' job to Dominic Raab in a bid to shore up her authority.

She held a meeting of her new Cabinet on Tuesday before attending a Western Balkans summit in London with other European leaders.

May's plan seeks to keep the U.K. and the EU in a free-trade zone for goods, and commits Britain to maintaining the same rules as the bloc for goods and agricultural products.

At a news conference on Tuesday, May maintained her plan "absolutely keeps faith with the vote of the British people," ending free movement of people from the EU, taking Britain out of European court jurisdiction and saving the "vast sums of money" that Britain pays as a member.

"But we will do this in a way which will be a smooth and orderly Brexit, a Brexit that protects jobs, protects livelihoods and also meets our commitment to no hard border" between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland, she said.

Many pro-Brexit lawmakers are furious at a plan they say will stop Britain forging an independent economic course. Two Conservative lawmakers, Maria Caulfield and Ben Bradley, quit as vice-chairs of the party on Tuesday over opposition to May's proposals. Bradley called on May to "deliver Brexit in spirit as well as in name."

But senior pro-Brexit Cabinet ministers said they supported May and would not resign. Asked if he was planning to quit, environment Secretary Michael Gove said "absolutely not."

Conservative lawmaker Michael Fallon, an ally of May, dismissed Johnson's "Brexit dream" rallying cry.

"Dreaming is good, probably for all of us, but we have to deal with the real world," he said.

Under Conservative Party rules, a confidence vote in a leader can be triggered if 15 percent of Conservative lawmakers — currently 48 — write a letter requesting one.

Fallon warned Conservative rebels that a challenge to May's leadership is "the last thing we need."

Two years after Britain voted 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the European Union, May is trying to find a middle way between two starkly differing views — within her party and the country — of the U.K.'s relationship with Europe.

Pro-Europeans want to retain close economic ties with the bloc and its market of 500 million people, while some Brexit supporters want a clean break to make it possible to strike new trade deals around the world.

The British government is due to publish a detailed version of its plans on Thursday. The EU says it will respond once it has seen the details.

"It's a good thing that we have proposals on the table," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at the Balkans summit in London. She said the 27 other EU nations would "table a common response to those proposals."

The resignations rocked May in a week that includes a NATO summit starting Wednesday and a U.K. visit by U.S. President Donald Trump beginning Thursday.

The trans-Atlantic relationship has had some awkward moments since Trump's election. He has criticized May over her response to terrorism and approach to Brexit, and infuriated many in Britain when he retweeted a far-right group.

Asked Tuesday whether May should be replaced as prime minister, Trump said it was "up to the people, not up to me."

"I get along with her very well, I have a very good relationship," he said.

He was more enthusiastic about Johnson, calling him "a friend of mine."

"He's been very, very nice to me, very supportive. Maybe I'll speak to him when I get over there," Trump said.

Ronaldo leaving Real Madrid to join Italian club Juventus

By DANIELLA MATAR, Associated Press

Cristiano Ronaldo is leaving Real Madrid to join Italian club Juventus in a move expected to benefit the Portugal forward's tax return.

Juventus said Tuesday it paid 112 million euros (\$131.5 million) for Ronaldo, who signed a four-year deal with the Serie A champions.

The move brings an end to a hugely successful nine-year spell in Spain, and takes him further away from a tax fraud case that may end up costing the Portugal forward more than \$20 million in fines.

"These years with Real Madrid and in this city of Madrid have been possibly the happiest of my life," Ronaldo wrote in an open letter. "My only feeling is of an enormous gratitude for this club, for these fans and for this city. I can only thank them all for the love and affection I have received.

"But I think the time has come to start a new phase in my life and that is why I have asked the club to accept my transfer. I feel that it is time, and I ask everyone, especially our fans, to please understand me."

Ronaldo joined Real Madrid in 2009 from Manchester United and was the Spanish club's all-time leading scorer with 451 goals in 438 matches. He helped the club win four Champions League titles — beating Juventus in the final in 2017 — and also won the league and cup twice each.

He has scored a record 120 Champions League goals, 105 of them since moving to Madrid — 12 more than Juventus managed in that same period.

But he was unhappy with the way the tax authorities treated him in Spain. Ronaldo, along with several other top players in the country, has been accused of tax fraud, with authorities saying the government was defrauded of 14.7 million euros (\$17 million) from 2011-14. Unconfirmed media reports last month said Ronaldo had agreed to pay a fine of 18.8 million euros (\$22 million).

In Italy, a new law caps tax on income generated from abroad at 100,000 euros (\$117,000) per year for

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residents who have paid their taxes in other countries for at least nine of the last 10 years.

Other players targeted by Spanish tax authorities in recent years include Lionel Messi, Javier Mascherano and Luka Modric. Former Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho, now at Manchester United, was also investigated.

Ronaldo is currently on vacation in Greece following Portugal's elimination from the World Cup. Juventus president Andrea Agnelli flew out Tuesday to meet the 33-year-old forward.

"Real Madrid wants to express its gratitude to a player who has proven to be the best in the world and who has marked one of the greatest eras in the history of our club and of world soccer," Real Madrid said in a statement.

"In addition to the titles he won, Cristiano Ronaldo has been an example of dedication, work, responsibility, talent and determination," Madrid added. "For Real Madrid, Cristiano Ronaldo will always be one of its greatest symbols and a unique reference for the next generations. Real Madrid will always be his home."

Ronaldo signed a five-year deal with Madrid in 2016, saying he wanted to end his career at the club. But he has also publicly expressed his discontentment about being jeered at times by some Madrid fans at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Ronaldo was also moved by the Juventus fans for giving him a standing ovation after he scored a spectacular goal against the Italian club at the Allianz Stadium in the Champions League quarterfinals last season.

"I gave a lot of thought to this and I know that the time has come for a new era," Ronaldo said. "I'm leaving, but this jersey, this shield and the Santiago Bernabeu will always feel as something that is mine wherever I go."

The signing broke the Serie A record, which Juventus set two years ago when it paid Napoli 90 million euros (then \$99 million) for Gonzalo Higuain.

Ronaldo made his debut for Sporting Lisbon when he was 17. His crossover dribble was already famous when Alex Ferguson brought him to Manchester United ahead of the 2003-04 season and gave him the No. 7 shirt of the recently departed David Beckham.

He spent six seasons in England, winning three Premier League titles, one Champions League title and one FA Cup.

Ronaldo led Portugal to its first major title at the European Championship two years ago in France. He helped the Portuguese team reach the semifinals in his first World Cup in 2006.

Portugal was eliminated by Uruguay in the round of 16 of this year's tournament in Russia. Ronaldo scored four goals to take his tally to 85 for his country and break Ferenc Puskas' record as Europe's all-time leading international scorer.

AP Sports Writer Tales Azzoni in Madrid contributed to this report.

Trump's attacks on NATO raise questions about its future

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's repeated tongue lashings of NATO allies and his friendly overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin are stirring questions at home and abroad about Trump's commitment to an Atlantic alliance that has been a pillar of U.S. security policy for more than half a century.

Might a reordering, or even a reduction, of U.S. forces in Europe be in the cards? Clues may come when Trump gathers Wednesday with NATO leaders in Brussels. The official agenda includes a plan for increasing the number of land, air and sea forces capable of reacting quickly in a European crisis, but overshadowing it are tensions generated by Trump's view that the Europeans are slackers leaning unfairly on the U.S. military.

At the risk of deepening the rift with traditional allies, Trump will then hold a summit in Finland with Putin. On his departure from Washington on Tuesday, the president remarked that he "can't say right now" if Putin is a friend or foe, but he predicted that his first summit with the Russian leader "may be the easiest" of all his meetings in Europe.

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Such comments have stirred unease not just in Europe, but in Washington. A bipartisan resolution, set to be endorsed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, pointedly voices support for NATO as strategically important for the collective security of the trans-Atlantic region.

"Although the Atlantic alliance has weathered many crises over its lifetime, I now am concerned that the alliance will not survive Donald Trump," said Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, who served as senior director for European affairs on the National Security Council during President Barack Obama's first term.

"Because he isn't arguing with allies about policy. He's questioning the fundamental value of NATO to the United States. This antagonistic approach is generating an unprecedented debate in Europe and in Canada about whether the United States should be treated as friend or foe," she said.

The demise of the Soviet Union in 1991 prompted a partial drawdown of U.S. forces from Europe, but every administration since then has concluded that keeping a U.S. military presence there was important for wider U.S. security, political and economic interests, and as a sign of solidarity with Europe. NATO has been a key part of the long U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan, for example, and it is expected to agree this week to take a bigger training role in Iraq.

Trump, who has also questioned the U.S. military presence in Asia, is challenging those assumptions. That has been most plain in his antagonistic approach to Germany, the main host of U.S. forces in Europe. He has criticized the Germans for not spending enough on their own defense and has castigated the country for what he calls an overly liberal immigration policy. He also has placed Germany at the center of his complaints about a U.S.-European trade imbalance.

Derek Chollet, executive vice president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a think tank, says there is a clear connection between Trump's criticism of German defense spending and reports that the Pentagon has undertaken a review of the cost of keeping troops in Europe.

"You cannot read this any other way" than looking at whether a U.S. troop reduction "is a feasible option for punishing them for their apparent lack of will," said Chollet, who was the Pentagon's assistant secretary for international security affairs during Obama's second term.

He questions whether Trump fully understands the global significance of the U.S. military presence in Germany, including its hosting of the headquarters of U.S. Africa Command, which leads U.S. counterterrorism efforts in North Africa. Stuttgart also is headquarters for U.S. European Command. Among many other facilities, Germany hosts a U.S. military hospital at Landstuhl, the largest American hospital outside the United States.

In addition, NATO has proposed creating a new command in Germany to improve the way the alliance would move troops and equipment in a military crisis. Kay Bailey Hutchison, the U.S. ambassador to NATO, told reporters this plan will be approved at the Brussels summit.

Notwithstanding Trump's grumbles about America shouldering the defense burden of Europe, his administration plans to boost spending to support it.

In the aftermath of Russia's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in 2014 and its subsequent military incursion into eastern Ukraine, the Pentagon ramped up joint exercises in eastern and central Europe and spent billions on what it calls the European Deterrence Initiative aimed at Russia. After spending \$3.4 billion on that initiative last year, the Trump administration has proposed boosting it to \$6.5 billion in the 2019 budget year.

Trump's Pentagon chief Jim Mattis is a former NATO commander and a leading advocate for sustaining the alliance, although he also has been pressuring allies to spend more on defense. Some of Mattis' predecessors were even stronger in their criticisms. Robert Gates, for example, said in Brussels in 2011 that European penny-pinching and distaste for front-line combat in Afghanistan was putting the future of the alliance at risk. Gates said NATO faced a "dim if not dismal" future, not least because of what he called a diminishing patience in Congress for spending on Europe's defense.

Trump, however, has taken this a step further by asserting that the Europeans are freeloaders taking advantage of American generosity.

In a new assessment of the NATO spending and burden-sharing issues, the Center for Strategic and

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International Studies called Trump's language "uniquely divisive" and said NATO members' contributions should be measured by more than simple budget numbers. The think tank was referring to the pledge at NATO's 2014 summit meeting that members would "aim to move toward" spending at least 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense by 2024. By its count, only four of NATO's 29 member countries met the 2 percent goal in 2017. They were the U.S., Greece, Britain and Estonia.

The report said a wider range of metrics should be used to measure an ally's contributions to collective defense. It cited as an example Denmark, which has not met the 2 percent goal in recent years but has made important contributions in other ways, including with troop deployments to Afghanistan and by sacrificing significant trade with Russia by complying with sanctions.

Temple business school dean forced out over falsified data

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The dean of Temple University's business school has been forced out over falsified data submitted to rankings organizations about its online master's program.

Temple President Richard Englert said in an email to the university community that Moshe Porat was asked to resign on Monday. Porat refused, but the university said he no longer heads the school. He still retains a teaching appointment.

In January, the Fox School of Business reported that Temple had submitted inaccurate data to U.S. News & World Report. As a result, the publication removed the school's No. 1 online MBA program ranking for 2018.

The university retained a law firm to review the business school's data reporting processes.

The firm found the school reported inaccurate data to the U.S. News for multiple years.

"The Fox School, under the leadership of Dean Moshe Porat, knowingly provided false information to at least one rankings organization about the online MBA," Englert said in the email. In addition to the misreporting of the number of students who took the Graduate Management Admission Test from 2015 to 2018, the average undergraduate GPA was overstated, and there were inaccuracies in the number of offers of admission as well as in the degree of student indebtedness, he said.

Porat, 71, disbanded a committee charged with making sure such rankings data was accurate, Englert said.

"This absence of checks and balances, together with an undue focus on rankings, enabled such misreporting," he wrote. "This is contrary to the fundamental value of integrity that is at the heart of our academic mission."

An interim dean will be named shortly, and the university will begin a national search for a permanent dean as soon as possible, Englert said.

Messages seeking comment from Porat, who has led the business school for 22 years, weren't returned Tuesday.

How Apple's app store changed our world

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A decade ago, Apple opened a store peddling iPhone apps, unlocking the creativity of software developers and letting users truly make their mobile devices their own.

The resulting explosion of phone apps — there are now more than 2 million for the iPhone alone — has changed daily life for billions of people around the world.

It has unleashed new ways for us to work and play — and to become so distracted that we sometimes forget to look up from our screens. It has created new industries — think ride-hailing services like Uber, which would be unimaginable without mobile apps — and pumped up demand for software developers and coding schools.

But it has also opened the door to an age of technology anxiety, rife with concerns that apps are serving us a little too well and holding our attention whether we want them to or not.

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IN THE BEGINNING

None of that was going on when Apple's app store debuted 10 years ago Tuesday. At the time, mobile phones were largely a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, with features programmed by their manufacturers and customization mostly limited to a choice between tinny electronic ringtones.

The iPhone itself was still in its infancy, with only 6 million devices sold during the device's first year. Then came the App Store, which offered 500 programs users could take or leave themselves. During its first weekend, people downloaded 10 million apps — many of them games.

Apple competitors Google, Amazon and Microsoft soon launched their own app stores. Together, these companies now offer roughly 7 million apps. Apple, meanwhile, has now sold more than a billion iPhones.

THE APP ECONOMY

That app tsunami, and the riches it generated, spawned new economic opportunities. Billions of dollars flowed into startups dependent on their apps, from Uber to Snapchat to Spotify to game makers like Angry Birds creator Rovio. Opportunities for software developers blossomed as well.

Apple perhaps benefited most of all. Its "free" apps usually display advertising or make money from subscriptions or other in-app purchases, while others charge users to download. Apple takes a cut of this action, sometimes as much as 30 percent.

The app store is now the fastest growing part of Apple's business. Together with other Apple services, the app store generated \$33 billion in revenue over the year that ended in March. The company says it has paid out more than \$100 billion to developers during the past decade.

THE OTHER SIDE OF APPS

For all the possibilities apps have allowed, there's also a dark side.

The Center for Humane Technology, an advocacy group formed by early employees of Google and Facebook, charges that many apps are engineered specifically to capture our attention, often to our detriment. That makes them "part of a system designed to addict us," the group says.

Apple says it shares similar concerns. To help, the company is adding new tools to the iPhone to track and control the usage of the most time-consuming apps.

Many out of power, water in flood-hit Japan; over 150 dead

By HARUKA NUGA and MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Akira Tanimoto says his apartment narrowly survived the floods and mudslide at his residential complex over the weekend, and even if he wants to go back there with his wife and two pet birds, he can't because there is no water, power or food available.

After their desperate run from floods that had hit the apartment complex where about a dozen of his neighbors were found dead, he returned to his place Monday to check on his apartment, which was almost intact. He also had to bring with him his beloved birds, which he initially had to leave behind.

Tanimoto wants to go back there with his wife, Chieko, and their yellow and green parakeets, Pi-chan and Kyako-chan, but said it would take a few weeks until they get the utility services back and clean the place.

"I can't go back if I wanted to," the 66-year-old retired Self-Defense serviceman said, holding a bird cage, in which the birds chirped as he spoke. "Electricity is out, water is cut off and there is no information there."

Rescuers were combing through mud-covered hillsides and along riverbanks Tuesday searching for dozens of people missing after heavy rains unleashed flooding and mudslides in southwestern Japan, where the death toll has exceeded 150.

More than 50 people were unaccounted for as of Tuesday evening, many in the hardest-hit Hiroshima area. At Tanimoto's apartment complex, about a dozen victims have been found. He and his wife grabbed the minimum necessities and walked about 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) to a fire engine Sunday after the floods and mudslides hit the complex. Debris and mudslides had stopped right outside the couple's apartment door.

Tanimoto thinks he and his wife are the lucky ones. "Some of our neighbors had their apartments destroyed, others are still looking for their families. So we are lucky. Our parakeets even survived," he said.

Work under the scorching sun was hampered by mud and heat, and shipments of relief goods were

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delayed by damaged roads and transportation systems, especially in areas isolated by the disaster.

Residents sheltering at the Yano school were provided with water, blankets and cellphone chargers. But a local volunteer, Yuki Sato, 25, said local convenience stores were obviously in short supply, so she didn't buy anything there because she wanted to save them for the evacuees or others who can't drive out of town.

Water and other relief supplies were scarce in some of the other disaster-hit areas.

"No water, food, nothing gets here," Ichiro Tanabe, a 73-year-old resident in the neighboring port city of Kure, told the Mainichi newspaper. "We are going to be all dried up if we continue to be isolated."

Delivery companies Sagawa Express Co. and Yamato Transport Co. and cargo service Japan Freight Railway Co. said some of their shipments to and from the flooded areas have been suspended or reduced. Regional supermarket chains such as Every Co. said one outlet is closed and several other outlets shortened service hours due to delivery delays and supply shortage.

Thousands of homes were still without clean water and electricity in Hiroshima and other hard-hit areas. Residents lined up for water under the scorching sun as temperatures rose to 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit), raising risks of heat stroke.

In another hard-hit town, Ozu in Ehime prefecture, water supplies were entirely cut off and residents could not clean their mud-stained homes, or even their clothes. At a major supermarket in town, employees sold bottled water and tea, cups of noodles and other preserved foods that survived the floods, while employees cleaned damaged merchandise, throwing items into dozens of plastic bags.

The landslides and flooding across much of western Japan have killed at least 155 people, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference.

Some of the thousands of residents who had been evacuated, some rescued from their rooftops, began cleaning up after the rain stopped Monday.

Suga said the government set up a task force and was spending 2 billion yen (\$18 million) to hasten deliveries of supplies and other support for evacuation centers and residents in the region.

Earlier Tuesday, the Self-Defense Force ferried seven oil trucks from Hiroshima to Kure, a manufacturing city whose 226,000 residents were cut off from the rest of the prefecture due to the disaster.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who had canceled a planned trip to Europe and the Middle East this week to oversee the emergency response, will visit disaster-hit areas in the Okayama prefecture, Suga said. The government mobilized 75,000 troops and emergency workers and nearly 80 helicopters for the search and rescue effort, Suga said.

Assessment of the casualties was slowed by the scale of the area affected. Officials in Ehime prefecture asked the government to review its weather warning system, noting that rain warnings were issued after damage and casualties already had occurred. The Japan Meteorological Agency said as much as 10 centimeters (3 inches) of rain per hour fell on large parts of southwestern Japan.

Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo.

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Stocks tumble as Asia braces for more US tariffs on China

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets have tumbled after the Trump administration said it was preparing to impose tariffs on another \$200 billion of Chinese exports, upping the ante in the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

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KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.9 percent to 22,000.81 and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.4 percent to 2,285.34 in morning trading. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.4 percent to 28,269.72. The Shanghai Composite index tumbled 1.9 percent to 2,774.78. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 0.6 percent to 6,220.70. Shares also fell in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

WALL STREET: A strong performance by household goods makers lifted major U.S. indexes. The S&P 500 index rose 0.3 percent to 2,793.84 on Tuesday, climbing to its highest level since Feb. 1. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.6 percent to 24,919.66. The Nasdaq composite picked up 3 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 7,759.20. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 0.5 percent to 1,695.62 after big gains over the last five days.

MORE U.S.-CHINA TARIFFS: The U.S. Trade Representative said Washington is preparing to impose 10 percent tariffs on another \$200 billion in Chinese imports, including 6,031 product lines ranging from burglar alarms to electric lamps and fish sticks. The office will take public comments and hold hearings on the plan before reaching a decision after Aug. 31. On Friday, the U.S. imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese products, and Beijing responded with similar duties on U.S. imports. The Trump administration said the new levies were a response to China's decision to retaliate. The initial U.S. tariff list focused on Chinese industrial products to help limit the impact on American consumers. The expanded list would hit products that U.S. households buy.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Given the magnitude and breadth of the tariff list, the impact is expected to ripple through supply chains and cause collateral damage on regional economies," Zhu Huani of Mizuho Bank said in a commentary. However, the public consultation period allows time for more negotiations, she noted.

TESLA IN CHINA: Electric car producer Tesla will build its first factory outside the United States in Shanghai. This will make it the first wholly foreign-owned automaker in China. No financial details of the agreement signed Tuesday were announced, but construction is expected to start as soon as official permits come through. The company hopes to eventually ramp up production to 500,000 vehicles annually. Tesla is among companies hit by an additional 25 percent in import duties, imposed by Beijing in retaliation to a tariff hike by the Trump administration.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude dropped 56 cents to \$73.55 a barrel. It gained 0.4 percent to settle at \$74.11 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 77 cents to \$78.09 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar eased to 111.07 yen from 111.28 yen on Tuesday. The euro weakened to \$1.1730 from \$1.1745.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2018. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

On this date:

In 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.

In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry

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Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1972, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the United States and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

In 1977, the Presidential Medal of Freedom was presented to polio vaccine pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk and (posthumously) to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1991, a Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

Ten years ago: Oil prices reached a record high of \$147.27 a barrel. IndyMac Bank's assets were seized by federal regulators. A North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean tourist at a northern mountain resort, further straining relations between the two Koreas. Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, the cardiovascular surgeon who pioneered such procedures as bypass surgery, died in Houston, Texas, at age 99.

Five years ago: In a potential setback for George Zimmerman, the jury at the neighborhood watch captain's second-degree murder trial in Sanford, Florida, was given the option of convicting him on the lesser charge of manslaughter in the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. (Zimmerman ended up being acquitted of all charges.) Tens of thousands of workers across Brazil walked off their jobs in a mostly peaceful nationwide strike, demanding better working conditions and improved public services in Latin America's largest nation.

One year ago: Emails released by Donald Trump Jr. revealed that he'd been told before meeting with a Russian attorney during the presidential campaign that the Russian government had information that could "incriminate" Hillary Clinton. MSNBC "Morning Joe" host and former Republican congressman Joe Scarborough announced that he was leaving the Republican party, partly because of its loyalty to President Donald Trump. Seattle's Robinson Cano homered off Cubs closer Wade Davis leading off the 10th inning and the American League beat the National League 2-1 in the All-Star game.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Susan Seaforth Hayes is 75. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 71. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 69. Actor Bruce McGill is 68. Singer Bonnie Pointer is 68. Actor Stephen Lang is 66. Actress Mindy Sterling is 65. Boxer Leon Spinks is 65. Actress Sela Ward is 62. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 61. Singer Peter Murphy is 61. Actor Mark Lester is 60. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 60. Singer Suzanne Vega is 59. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 59. Actress Lisa Rinna is 55. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 53. Actress Debbe (correct) Dunning is 52. Actor Greg Grunberg is 52. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 51. Actor Justin Chambers is 48. Actress Leisha Hailey is 47. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 46. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 45. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 45. Rapper Lil' Kim is 43. Actor Jon Wellner is 43. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 42. Rapper Lil' Zane is 36. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 35. Actress Serinda Swan is 34. Actor Robert Adamson is 33. Actor David Henrie is 29. Actor Connor Paolo is 28. Tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 28. R&B/pop singer Alessia Cara is 22.

Thought for Today: "Those people who think only of themselves, are hopelessly uneducated. They are not educated, no matter how instructed they may be." — Nicholas Murray Butler, American educator (1862-1947).